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A SERIES OF DOMESTIC PRAYERS,

FOR

MORNING AND EVENING,

DURING FOUR WEEKS:

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

OFFICES FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS.

BY THE

REV. RICHARD WINTER HAMILTON,

MINISTER OF BELGRAVE CHAPEL, LEEDS.

ΧΡΗ.	ΔΕΙ.	ΟΦΕΙΛΕΙ.
IT IS USEFUL.	IT IS BINDING.	IT IS DUE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

A FEW years since I addressed to my Congregation a little Work, entitled PASTORAL APPEALS ON PERSONAL, DOMESTIC, AND SOCIAL DEVOTION. Several of my Friends then importuned me to publish some Family Prayers. The Promise was given, and after some delay, in now fulfilled.

Upon the execution of this Design let my Friends exercise all the Indulgence and Kind Partiality which they can.

ADDISON has said: "How cold and dead does a Prayer appear, that is composed in the most elegant and polite forms of Speech, which are natural to our Tongue, when it is not heightened by that solemnity of phrase, which may be drawn from the Sacred Writings..... I think we may say with justice, that when mortals converse with their Creator, they cannot

do it in so proper a style as in that of the Holy Scriptures."—SPECTATOR, No. 405.

I confess it will be a pleasant thought to me, should this Volume obtain any circulation, that I am directing the orisons of many whom I know, and that I may excite those of families which I can never know.

My only attempt is to assist those Heads of Households who cannot or will not offer Free Prayer: Where such a sweet task is performed, let not This, or any Kindred Manual, interrupt or supersede it! Compositions of the highest order, the noblest Rituals, are imperfect substitutes for its ministration, and doubtful apologies for its neglect.

I hope that a thoroughly EVANGELIC Tone is sustained in these Services. It has been my purpose to make very prominent the Doctrines of the Trinity, of Mediation by Atonement and Intercession, of Divine Influence, of Practical Sanctification. In most, there is reference to the Cause of Missions,—the special Vocation of the Church in these latter days. I have seldom omitted a petition for unconverted Relatives and

Friends. For continuing instant in these things, —for all such repetitions,—I must be held deliberately responsible.

The Forms may be too long for some. But the circumstances of Families vary. Several expressions will be proper in one, and not, in another. My advice to the Person who conducts the worship is to peruse each Prayer previously to its utterance, and then, with pencil or otherwise, to mark the omissions which the case of his Domestic Circle suggests. It seemed better to be too full than defective.

They who may favour these Offices, have thus laid before them their History, their Plan, their Motive, and their only legitimate or wished-for Use.

I have prefixed, as Motto, the beautiful Scale of Moral Obligation adopted and graduated by the ancient Greeks, to express and urge my deep sense of the importance of Family Worship. Its Practice does not necessarily constitute a Family, Christian; but its habitual disregard *demonstrates* that it is not.

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FAMILY PRAYERS.

First Week.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

LORD of the Sabbath! Who hast made it for man: who biddest its sun again to rise upon us: who causest all its blessings to return! Now therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious name. Thou art the Creator who wouldst not rest until Thy works were finished and shone forth very good. We commemorate this achievement of Thy might, Thy wisdom, Thy benevolence. We would declare Thy doings among the people.—But He, who is our God, is the God of salvation: and a more illustrious deed do we now record. Thy Son, who hath entered into His rest, hath ceased from His own works as Thou, O Father, didst from Thine. We come not early to His tomb, but to His throne; not with embalmment of sweet spices

for Him who is dead, but we would sing praises, yea, we would sing praises, to Him who could not be holden of death, who could not see corruption, who dieth no more, who hath the power of an endless life. God hath gone up with a shout: the Lord with the sound of a trumpet. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors, that the King of glory may go in. We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, now crowned with honour and glory. Thou, O Saviour, hast ascended on high: Thou hast led captivity captive: Thou hast overcome. Thy right hand and holy arm have gotten Thee the victory. Well hast Thou won Thy right to govern all things. On Thy head, once pierced by thorns, be all the crowns of earth,—on Thy brow be the diadem of the universe!

We adore Thee, O God, that this day of festivity revisits us: a day of light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. We rejoice that those sufferings which only closed on the Cross, and those abasements which only ended in the Grave, of Jesus, are for ever past! We could weep for joy that His visage, more marred than any man's, buffeted and spit upon here, now beams as the sun in its strength; that the eyes, which often filled with tears, are as a flame of fire; that His

nailed feet stand in the midst of the throne; that the hand, which bore the reed, now wields a right sceptre; that the voice which broke in sorrow, and sunk in death, now speaks the law of heaven, earth, and hell. O how delightful to know that He shall groan in spirit, that He shall be put to shame, that He shall be set at nought, no more! How sweet is it to unite our voice to the melody of angels in the jubilee of His eternal praise!

May we join ourselves to the Lord, to serve Him, and to love the name of the Lord, keeping the Sabbath from polluting it and taking hold of His covenant. We would call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable. Let us turn away our foot from doing our pleasure on this holy day: or rather be it our pleasure, the pleasure only of renewed hearts, to strictly observe, and gratefully regard, it. O Lord, what a sign is every Sabbath of Thy faithfulness and grace: may the land have its Sabbath! the dumb animals theirs! and may we enjoy the tranquillity of which this day is the emblem and the pledge, —by believing may we enter into rest!

We pray that this Sabbath may witness our conscientious attention to the duties of private religion: may we enter our closet and shut the door. Especially may we examine ourselves if we be in the faith.—Amidst our domestic exer-

cises, may we be fervent in spirit, and enlarged in heart. Let it be the Sabbath of the Lord in our dwelling. May we manifest the subdued cheerfulness, the unconstrained piety, of a Christian home. Save us from all admixture of trifling pursuit and intercourse with the divine obligations of the season.—But as this day is peculiarly devoted to social public worship, may we be glad that it is said unto us, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Remember the Mount Zion in which Thou hast dwelt. For our brethren and companions' sakes, we would now say, Peace be within thee!

We bless Thee for our privileges. Persecution does not make us afraid. We are not torn from Thine altar to the axe or to the stake. We suffer not the spoiling of our property and the infringement of our liberty. The rod of the wicked is not on our lot. Our fathers sang their Sabbath-praise in loathsome dungeons, and the prisoners heard their unfaltering strain: or if they could congregate, it was on the moor and in the wood. How have our blessings prevailed above the blessings of our progenitors! Our eyes see our teachers. There is no famine of hearing Thy word. Our candlestick is not removed out of its place. Yet Thou mightest have taken Thy kingdom from us, and given it to a people bringing forth the fruit thereof.

Thou mightest have done to our house of prayer as Thou didst to Shiloh: Thou mightest have left it desolate as Jerusalem. But Thou dost abundantly pardon: Thou hast not given us up. Ah! Lord God! wilt Thou make a full end of Thy remnant?

If permitted to repair to the holy place of Thy tabernacle, may we keep our foot, and be more ready to hear than to offer the sacrifice of fools. May we feel how awful is the place which is the house of God and gate of heaven. Let our thoughts be fixed: let our hearts be right. In the congregation may we bless the Lord: may we wait on Him: may we behold His beauty, and enquire in His temple. Bless the ministry of reconciliation; let it not be a dead letter, but words which are spirit, life, and power. Let it be spoken with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven. May they who mourn be comforted. May eyes, which never wept for sin, stream with penitential tears. May prayer be conceived in hearts hitherto strangers to it. While we intercede for others, O visit *us* with Thy salvation.

We pray for our brethren and companions in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ; for the disciples every where; for all the heirs of the same promise. Some are debarred from meeting with us by the impedi-

ment of afflictive circumstances. When they remember these things, they pour out their soul in them; for they have often gone with the multitude to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holiday. Soothe their agitation and their pain. Soon may they be restored to their beloved sanctuary, with all its ordinances; come unto the altar of God, unto God their exceeding joy; and pay the vows which their lips have uttered and their mouth hath spoken, when they were in trouble. O continue Thy loving-kindness unto them that know Thee, and Thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

While we beseech Thee on behalf of all Christian pastors and evangelists at home, we would earnestly commend to Thee with peculiar sympathy all Christian missionaries. We would bid them, God speed! We love them for His Name's sake on account of which they have gone forth! We honour them because he that doeth good is of God! Think upon their afflictions. Keep their motives pure. May they know that their labour is not in vain in the Lord. Let no perils daunt them, nor disappointments chill them. Having put their hand to the plough, forbid any to look back: having begun to sow, may each come again, not weeping but rejoicing, bearing his sheaves with him!

In Him who is our Life, our Peace, our Hope, our All, would we be found! For His sake may our worship be accepted! And to the Deity, in Three Persons, be glory everlasting!

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

THE Night, O Lord, is Thine! Thou makest the darkness: Thou callest us to repose: Thou causest us to dwell in safety. And now at the close of this holy day, we bless and magnify Thy name. Thou didst impress its sanctity, inspire its peace, and awaken its joy. Thou didst afford the strength which bore us to Thy house, and each holy disposition was from Thee if we have improved its ordinances. It is Thy glorious Gospel which we have heard, they were Thy servants who have showed unto us the way of salvation. We might have lived in ignorance of Thee. We might have been natives of a land where Christ is not named. We might not have heard that there is a Holy Ghost. We might have surrounded an altar with this inscription, "To the Unknown God." We might have been without Christ, having no hope, and even without

God in the world. How blessed are our eyes in what they see, how blessed are our ears with what they hear!

Through the Lord Jesus we come unto Thee; for no man can come unto Thee but by Him. We are assured that we cannot be heard for our own sake. Presumptuous as vile should we appear having on our own righteousness. We have not a pretext of merit and title. To the altar of atonement on earth, to the altar of incense in heaven, we bring our prayers and thanksgivings! May the High Priest plead their acceptance by His blood, and put them in His censer!

And now that the high solemnities and public engagements of Thy house and of Thy day have ceased, we return to our habitation, praying that our communion may still be with Thee! Never let us forget, nor suffer us to misimprove, what we have seen and heard. May the word profit us, being mixed with faith. May it be engrafted in us, and save our souls. May we lay hold on eternal life.

We would deeply lament before Thee our coldness and apathy in Thy service. What stupendous truths are constantly brought before us, and how deep should be our concern in them! When we mused on them, how should the fire burn! When the blessings which accompany

them are pressed on our acceptance, how should our hearts open to receive them! If angels desire to look into these things, how fixed should be our attention; and if they praise the Lamb, who was not slain for them but us, how warm should be our love! We upbraid and abhor ourselves in Thy sight. Quicken and restore us. Satisfy us with the goodness of Thy house, even of Thy holy temple. Let it not be always thus. Too much of hypocrisy do we discover in these complaints. Too much do we dissemble with Thee. Why do we not shun what we hope we do not altogether affect to lament? Why, knowing how slow are our hearts to believe, do we move them so seldom by the appeals of Thy word, and by communion with Thee? Pardon us in this thing. Be very merciful unto us. What hope could we cherish but that Christ has died, and that His blood cleanseth from all sin! His blood be on us and on our children!

We bless Thee for these domestic offices. Sweet is the privilege of coming as a family to God. And may He who went from the Temple-feast to the family of Bethany not disdain this humble worship, this little band! Jesus, who callest Thy followers Thy friends, pity our weakness, and accept our praise! As on the evening of the first Christian Sabbath Thou didst suddenly

stand in the midst of Thy disciples, show to us Thy hands and feet, open our understandings, unfold to us the Scriptures, constitute us Thy witnesses, breathe over us Thy peace!

We pray that wherever the Gospel has this day been preached, it may take effect. Let none of the seed be lost which has been sown. Let no impression which has been made be effaced. Gather them who are not gathered. To the Shiloh may there be the gathering of the people!

We adore Thee for the attestation which Thou dost still bear to Thy Gospel. It is still the present truth. It still comes in much assurance. It is still the rod of Thy strength. It is still Thy power unto salvation. The tree of life still bears its fruits, and yields its leaves for the healing of the nations. The Fountain of the Water of Life still freshens and overflows. And we meekly trust, O blessed God, that we have proved this for ourselves. We have found that Jesus Christ has been the same *to-day* as He has ever been known to His people.

Let our family religion be much quickened by the influence of public ordinances. Let us carry homeward a savour of Thy holy and beautiful house, and of all its pleasant things. May our principles be reinforced, and our sensibilities revived. May we be stronger in our profession.

May we more openly declare, that as for us and our house we will serve the Lord. May it be like making a battlement for our roof!

We would sympathize with them of Thy children, O Lord, who have been debarred their accustomed attendance on Thine outward service. Let not the holy day have visited, nor left, them without refreshing from Thy presence. Let them not have dwelt in a dry land where no water is. Be merciful to them as Thou usest to be to those who fear Thy name. Suffer them not to feel that they are cast out of Thy sight, but may they look again toward Thy holy temple. And if no more their feet may stand in the midst of Thy courts, may they enter the true Sanctuary, beyond the relapses of weakness and the interruptions of pain.

Our prayer arises on behalf of our dear and devoted Missionaries. We have kneeled down with them, and pledged that we would not forget them. We bear them before Thee in these our supplications. Graciously look upon all the sorrow and faintness of their hearts. How different their Sabbath from ours! Surrounded by the rites of idolatry, how has their quiet been invaded! Under even most favourable circumstances, with what stupor and ignorance have they had to contend! How have they thought, and perhaps have wept at the remembrance, of their country's

homes and sanctuaries! May they never regret their decision. May they never betray unworthiness of their high calling by a desertion of it! May the double portion be given to them who are separate from their brethren! May they be anointed with the oil of gladness, like as He was whom they serve, above their fellows! Be to them a little sanctuary in the midst of the heathen!

We feel our infirmities. When at dawn-break we arose, the happy spirits round about Thy throne were singing, and they still untiringly sing. Our bodies weary, and our spirits fail. We ask of Thee that a change may now pass over us which reminds us of weakness, and of death. O when shall we come to Mount Sion, the heavenly Jerusalem! When shall we mingle with the innumerable company of angels and the shouts of the just made perfect! When shall we flee away and be at rest! When shall eternity be the measure of our Sabbath, and yet shall we never say, What a weariness is it!

Whether we sleep or wake, in our nightly repose and daily vigour,—or with our body in the grave, and with our spirit in immortality,—we would live to Thee! We would put our hope in the sacrifice of Jesus; lie down, and rise up, by that Altar!

And now, with the Church universal, with

the whole Family of Heaven and of Earth, we will give glory To the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the only Lord God, our God for ever and ever!

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

O LORD our Lord! How excellent is Thy Name in all the earth! How great is Thy goodness, and how great is Thy beauty! Thou openest Thy hand, and satisfiest the wants of every living thing. Thou hast left on our earth, though Thy curse is on its ground and its ungodly inhabitants, a thousand traces of what is magnificent, and lovely, and fair! Thou hast clothed and adorned the lily, Thou settest each star in the sky. Thou alone spreadest out the heavens; Thou, by Thy Spirit, hast garnished them; Thou fillest our world with scenes which delight our eye and refresh our heart. Every where may we perceive Thee. In Thee we live and move and have our being. Thou dost visit us every morning, and try us every moment! How indulgent and forbearing art Thou to have only banished us from Paradise into a world where so many of its charms survive, and so many of its sweets breathe still!

But we would charge our souls to approach Thee through the Mediator. If a man sin against the Lord, who shall entreat for him? We adore Thee that Thy Word meets the fearful case: for if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous. He shall thoroughly plead our cause: the Lord of Hosts is His name. We rejoice in Him, putting no confidence in the flesh. We rely on His unchangeable priesthood. We thank Thee, that the altar is not to build, nor the fire to kindle, nor the victim to select, nor the incense to gather, nor the sacrifice to consecrate,—but that all things are ready, that Christ abideth a priest continually, and that He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

We acknowledge Thy goodness in the repose and protection of the past night. Thou hast again opened our eyelids that we should not sleep the sleep of death. Thou renewest our being, and our capacity to serve Thee. Be Thine this early offering,—be Thine the perpetual consecration,—of all our powers. When we break our bread may we bless its Giver. When we sit in the house or walk by the way, may Thy word be in our heart. Exposed to continued danger, may we remember that safety is of the Lord. Be Thou at our right hand that we be not moved. May Thy fear be before our eyes, and

while we enjoy its strong confidence may we, as Thy children, know our place of refuge.

Bless us with all spiritual blessings. Let us remember that it is not our family profession which can avail us, but personal experience of the Gospel. May we be justified freely by Thy grace. Sanctify us wholly. Give us power to become Thy children. Let Christ be our life, and be in us the hope of glory. The Lord deliver us from every evil work, and preserve us unto His heavenly kingdom. And at last may we receive the end of our faith, the salvation of our souls.

And remember us, O Lord, as a worshipping family. We own Thine authority and acknowledge Thy beneficence. Thou who feedest us, be the bread of life to our souls. Adorn with Thine apparel the hidden man of the heart, even with that which is not corruptible. Be Thou our house of defence to dwell in until we are clothed upon by our house which is from heaven. May we in our respective stations and several degrees uphold our Christian profession, mark to others that we are bound together by a holy tie,—presenting a specimen, constituting a portion, and exhibiting a counterpart, of the whole family of heaven and of earth, named after the name of Christ!

We implore Thy presence and aid this day

in our various avocations. However difficult our task, may we overcome it; however humble, may we contentedly ply it. Let us do all to Thee. Whether we eat or drink, may we do it to Thy glory; in discharging our most common duties may we have respect to Thy will concerning us. May we examine each motive to each act; and in doing justly and loving mercy, may we walk humbly with our God.—Another Sabbath has just closed, and our six days of labour now begin. We heard Thy word; may we keep it. We attended Thy house; may we retain its holiness. We met Thy people; remember us with the favour Thou bearest to them. We enjoyed Thy Sabbath; oh diffuse its calm, its sanctity, its heavenliness, throughout our week!

Remember in love, we entreat Thee, our dear relatives and friends. We thank Thee for them, for Thou mightest have put them from us, and our acquaintance into darkness. We would mourn before Thee, if any of them are alienated from Thy life, and strangers to Thy grace. May we earnestly and devoutly tell our kindred what great things Thou hast done for us, and how Thou hast had mercy upon us. Let us first find our own brother. Let us have compassion upon our own flesh. Let us not be in death divided.

Never would we forget that we owe to love all men, and are debtors to them in spiritual things. Freely we have received, as freely may we give. We pray for the world lying in wickedness, and wholly, with few exceptions, given to idolatry. We trust that our spirit is stirred within us when we revolve the frightful scene. Shalt Thou always be thus defied? Have pity for Thy holy Name. Send forth Thy messengers to them who have not heard Thy fame nor seen Thy glory. Let Bel bow down and Nebo stoop. May nations change their gods, which are yet no gods. Be Thou every where confessed the true God, the living God, the everlasting King. The God of the whole earth shalt Thou be called!

May we often reflect on our mortality. Make us to know our end, and the measure of our days what it is, that we may know how frail we are. Let that solemn change be much in our thoughts. Let us form all our plans, and order all our doings, as dying creatures. And when we prove what that dread mystery is, may our end be peace. What we had feared were rough places may we find green pastures, and what had been apprehended by us to be fierce billows may we behold still waters!

We acknowledge our vileness in Thy sight. Our iniquity is marked before Thee. Thou hast rejected our confidences, and we would henceforth

renounce them. We have no hope but in Thy mere compassion, Thy free grace. We look for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Hear our petitions and accept our adorations, in the name and for the sake of Thy Beloved Son, whom Thou hast set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood,—whom Thou hast anointed as our Priest for ever! And now we ascribe honour, and glory, and blessing to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, world without end! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

GREAT art Thou, O God! Who is a strong Lord like unto Thee? or to Thy faithfulness round about Thee? Thou art greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Thee. Thou inhabitest the praises of Israel. Thou puttest Thy name in the congregations of the faithful. Thou walkest amidst the golden candlesticks. Glory be to Thee in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end!

But while Thou preferrest the gates of Zion, Thou dost not disdain the dwellings of Jacob. As when two of us agree on earth touching any thing that we shall ask, it is done for us of Thee, —so the domestic tie is not opposed to that agreement, nor injurious to that success. Wilt Thou therefore the less favour us? or the more reluctantly hear our prayer? O Thou who hast ever honoured the seed of Thy blessed, and their offspring with them,—who hast signified all spiritual blessings by the tender illustrations of our adoption and inheritance,—we are assured that Thou wilt not deny Thy presence nor spurn our suit. From this our little brief resting-place on earth we raise to Thee our heart and voice. Thou knowest the abode of Thine enemies, their going out and coming in: Thou blessest the household because of the ark: Thou givest mercy to the house of them who refresh Thy harassed servants, and who shun not Thy persecuted followers because of their chain! May this be the tabernacle of the righteous and the habitation of the just! May the voice of rejoicing and of salvation be always heard in it! May it be the heritage of those that fear Thy name!

We would remember that, when Jesus entered in once into Thy Holy Place, it was by His own blood. We dare not come before Thee but as we tread the way He has consecrated for

us, and as we convert His *claim* into our *plea*. May the sacred sign be on our lintel! Our household is not too little to require Christ our Passover to be sacrificed for us!

Vouchsafe to us the Holy Spirit. We as constantly need His aid on account of our helplessness, as we do the Saviour's expiation because of our guilt. May we begin in the Spirit, receiving all the changes which he has covenanted to accomplish in Thy people, mistaking nothing simply natural for His grace, supplanting His work by no human pretence. May we live in the Spirit, conscious of that vital power in which is the life of our souls. May we walk in the Spirit, being gently yet firmly led by Him, knowing His mind, and corresponding to His will. May we never resist, and never grieve, Him!

How mercifully hast Thou, O our Heavenly Parent, this day supplied our wants. Our daily bread has been given us. We have had all things bestowed richly to enjoy. For every measure of health and ease, for food and raiment, for home and kindred, we offer Thee our praise. Who can set forth Thy mercies? If we should count them, they are more in number than the sand. But we would not seek great things for ourselves. We would not trust in uncertain riches. We would not glory in wisdom or might. Rather may we cherish the godliness which with content-

ment is great gain. May we cultivate the loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness which Thou dost exercise in the earth, for these are the things in which Thou delightest. And should Thy Providential blessings be withdrawn, let us not charge Thee foolishly. Thou still art Just. And in promoting our good by trials Thou art as merciful as in surrounding us with comforts. May we love Thee for Thy self: delight ourselves in Thee: and although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, yet may we rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of our salvation!

Retiring soon to rest, we would contrast our enjoyments with the privations of the homeless; with the persecutions which befell them, of whom the world was not worthy, that wandered about in sheep-skins and goat-skins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented, in deserts and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth; with the mysterious humiliations of Him whom the inn of Bethlehem refused to receive, who, while the foxes had holes and the birds of the air their nests, had not where to lay his head! May our sleep refresh us; let us not be full of tossings to and fro; suffer no evil sound of unpardoned and unrepented sin to be in our ear; scare us not with dreams nor terrify us through visions. And when the dawn shall break, may we cast off our

heaviness, feel recovered from our fatigue, cheerfully take our place once more in our appointed sphere, and gladly compute the lessening number of our days by the sweet assurance that our salvation is continually nearer and nearer than when we believed.

But the ungodly are not so. We pray for the families which fear and profess Thee not. May they who occupy the solemn responsibility of presiding over them, see that thus they open a new source of public irreligion, that they cause their children to pass through the fire, and that they imprecate on them and theirs, the fury which shall be poured out upon the families which call not upon Thy name.

Remember, O God, Thy church in this wilderness. Let not the spirit which is of the world be permitted to enter it. May it hold forth the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship most undisguisedly and most unyieldingly. Let its health spring forth speedily. Let not the gates of the invisible world, the devastations of death, in the withdrawment of the pious and useful, prevail against it.

O send out Thy light and Thy truth! Go, Thou Breaker up, before our dear Missionaries; let every valley be exalted, and every mountain and hill be made low; turn the heart of kings; change the face of empires; subdue the people

under Thee; may the ends of the earth remember, and fear, and turn unto the Lord. May all men declare the work of God, and wisely consider of his doing!

To Thee once more we commit ourselves. The darkness and the light are both alike unto Thee; and Thou who hast hitherto kept us, continue to keep us until the vicissitude of day and night shall cease in the noontide of Celestial glory.

We ask to be heard for the sake of Thy dear Son,—who while we His people pray without, is within the veil bearing our names on His breastplate, and presenting our sacrifices on His altar of inextinguishable incense. To Him, united with the Father and the Spirit, we offer our worship. Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Oh how great is Thy goodness, O Lord, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men! Little may we boast, nor dare we connect our experience of this goodness with the fear we have shown Thee, or

the trust we have put in Thee. Often mightest Thou have demanded, Where is my fear? Often mightest Thou have rebuked us, Wherefore do ye doubt? But Thy goodness overflows towards us, it must be therefore free as it is great! How excellent is Thy loving-kindness!

If we were only the beneficiaries of Thy care and bounty, we should need a Mediator, for without an infinite righteousness, the righteousness of God by faith, worthless and sinful would be even our praise. But when we remember that we approach Thee as petitioners, such necessity becomes inconceivably stronger; and we now plead the merits of that perfect obedience to Thy law and that complete endurance of its penalty, witnessed in the life and death of our most blessed Lord and Redeemer. Solely on account of this satisfaction to Thy purity and rectitude, do we now ask to be heard, and hope to be accepted! Let us never count the blood of the covenant a common thing: never cease to be impressed with its awful expression against sin, nor to be affected with its tender commiseration for the sinner! Thus not having on our own righteousness, yet imploring that the righteousness of the Lord Jesus may be unto us and upon us, we draw near unto Thee, O our Father, and magnify Thy name together. Pleasant is the light,—Thou pourest it upon us. Sweet is it to assemble in this unity of

feeling,—Thou makest us to be of one mind. Our board is spread,—Thou preparest it. And delightful is it to think, that our daily duties are the tasks set us by Thy paternal discipline dictated by an invariable regard to our welfare; and that we best please Thee when we discharge them with the warmth, simplicity, and confidence of filial love. Lord! what wilt Thou have us to do? We can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth us!

May our trespasses be all forgiven. Thou hast ordained the way of pardon to the sinner and shut Thyself up unto it. Let it never be our crime and folly not to accord with it. Let Christ crucified be to us, as to all them who are called, the wisdom and the power of God. What other altar of expiation, what other altar of incense, have we but the Cross? Where, save in its shadow, can we take refuge, can we claim sanctuary, can we find rest unto our souls?—Sprinkle the clean water of Divine influence upon us, and we shall be clean: from all our defilements and idols do Thou cleanse us. A new heart do Thou put within. In the hidden part do Thou make us to know wisdom. May we be converted, and become meek, docile, depending upon Thy testimony, yielding to Thy will, conformed to Thine image, as little children. May our holiness be active. May our faith work by love. May we

often ask ourselves, How dwelleth the love of God in us? If we say that we have faith, what can it profit us if we have not works? Can a faith so merely nominal, a faith that is dead, save us?

May we keep our heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life. Keep it, O Lord, right with Thee. Heal the fountain of its bitterness, and that will heal the streams. Let us not by word, by mood, by tone, by look, mar our household's cheerfulness and peace. Let us walk in wisdom towards them who are without. Let them see nothing in us to discredit our profession, or to tempt them to say, This man's religion is vain! May our temper be gentle, and pitiful, and courteous. May grace be poured into our lips. Forbid that we should hide iniquity in our heart. Forbid that we be ever overtaken with a fault. When evening returns may it bring with it the happy consciousness, that though most imperfect, the day has not been wholly unimproved!

Remember in mercy our kindred and friends. Let us have joy of them, such as angels feel over the good and the penitent. If strangers to Thee, bring them nigh. May Jesus look upon them all and say, The same is my brother, and my sister, and mother!

Thou hast long established Thy Gospel here,

and Christ Jesus is evidently set forth crucified among us. Thou hast set before us an open door. Thou hast planted a goodly vine. May we ever set store by such invaluable privileges. May we never incur the upbraiding denounced upon them who believed not, though wonderful works were done among them sufficient to have constrained Tyre to clothe itself in sackcloth, and Sodom to turn the cry of its wickedness to heaven into a cry of contrite prayer.

But we would look beyond the border of Israel, and pray for lands where there is no vision. Have respect to Thy Covenant, for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. How beautiful would be the feet of them, who publish glad tidings of peace, upon those mountains! How great would be the joy in those cities, if Christ was preached to them! When shall it once be? Oh that we felt as we ought our debt to all the world,—that we consecrated our gain to the deliverance of men from idolatry! Oh that Zion stirred up her strength, her untold resources, her power of faith, her might of prayer, for the salvation of the human race! Forget not the labourers in the heathen field, whose hand is more frequently on the plough than on the sheaf; —who have more commonly to drag the share through a sterile soil than to thrust their sickle into the whitened harvest! Cheer them when

often ask ourselves, How dwelleth the love of God in us? If we say that we have faith, what can it profit us if we have not works? Can a faith so merely nominal, a faith that is dead, save us?

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most depressed: Guide them when most embarrassed: Keep them when most prospered: Fortify them when most opposed!

Forget not the congregation of Thy poor. Our prayer shall be in their calamities. Judge the widow. Take the orphan up. Comfort all who are broken in heart. Revive the spirit of the humble. According to the greatness of Thy power, preserve Thou those that are appointed to die. Let not a groan escape Thine ear, nor a tear fall but for Thee to wipe away!

Still keep us, and continue Thy loving-kindness towards us. Establish our hearts unblameable in holiness. May our whole spirit, and soul, and body, be preserved blameless, not only through this day, but unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we Thy people, and sheep of Thy pasture, will give Thee thanks for ever; we will show forth Thy praise to all generations.

Accept our homage and gratitude in the name of Thy Only Begotten and Well-Beloved Son; and through the same Mediator we ascribe to Jehovah in Trinity of co-equal Persons, and in Covenant of saving offices, everlasting glory.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

LORD who art Most High for evermore! To whom all hearts are known! Who fillest heaven and earth! There is no darkness in which the workers of iniquity can hide themselves from Thee! and the deepest shade of night cannot conceal from Thee Thy people! Thine eye is continually upon them. Thou followest us with a jealous care. And thus assured, we bend before Thee! We pay Thee our evening rite. We, as Thy servants, would serve Thee; as Thy saints, we would bless Thee; as Thy children, we would honour Thee. We approach Thee with thanksgiving. Thou art the Author of all good. We are the pensioners on Thy bounty, and the dependents of Thy love. Night unto night showeth not only Thy wisdom, but attests Thy pity. Merciful Guardian, to Thee we owe safety; Adorable Allsufficiency, to Thee we ascribe our support! Each moment of each minute, each minute of each hour, each hour of this day, has borne witness to Thy mindfulness of us, and of the covenant which Thou hast set round about us. Angels have ministered to us. All things have worked together for our good. The heavens have heard the earth; the earth has heard the corn, the wine, and the oil;

and they have heard us. Having food and raiment, we would be content, we would be thankful. What should we receive didst Thou give us only what we might claim, didst Thou divide the goods which fell to us? Thine is God-like love. Thou dost grant exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think.

As the lifting up of the hands of Thine ancient people was at the time of the evening sacrifice, and the kindling of the incense,—so we present before Thee the Lamb for this evening, the continual burnt-offering: so we plead His intercession for us! We sinners, beseech Thee to hear us. We are guilty and perishing. Our only hope is, that Christ has died for our sins according to the Scriptures. We would believe the Scriptures and the power of God. Still let it not be according to our faith, but according to Thy Word!

Be very favourable to this family. Make it of one heart and mind. Let love continue among it, and abound more and more. Suffer no root of bitterness to spring up, lest any be defiled. May we have no heart for the pleasures of the world. O that the youngest may live before Thee! Have Thou the dew of their youth, and the first-fruits of their increase! Let us not be parted in different states of the saved and the lost through eternity. We would have great heaviness and continual sorrow in our heart for our kindred, if we must

fear that any are yet in their sins! Awaken them to a sense of their danger, and to a knowledge of their deliverance. Let us not seem to them as they who mock. May they be accounted worthy to escape those things which are coming on the world, and to stand before the Son of Man.

Look with much compassion on the children of the destitute, upon them who have no helper. For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, do Thou arise, O Lord. May they be warmed and be filled. May He who was poor, befriend them,—may they cry unto the Lord and do Thou hear them,—may they be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom. May the rich among the people entreat Thy favour, may the poor trust in Thee!

To Thee we commend all the children of God scattered abroad. Thou knowest them who are Thine. Thou hast planted the heavens, Thou hast laid the foundations of the earth, that Thou mightest say, Ye are my people. May they lack nothing. May their enemies be at peace with them. Comfort those who mourn. Break not the bruised reed. Give them rest round about. Preserve in them true religion. Let none turn backward. Let none defile their garments. Let none give occasion to blaspheme.

Have pity for Thy great name. How is it wronged and insulted! Set up Thine ensign

among the people. Let the heathen, who had not attained to righteousness, attain to the righteousness which is by faith. And may our beloved and honoured Missionaries have such tokens of Thy favour and such auspices of Thy zeal, that for their shame they may have double, and a hundredfold of success.

Be it impressed upon our minds that a day must come, O blessed Father, when we shall be torn from each other, when death shall call for us, when breach after breach shall be made upon us. Prepare us for the event. May he, who shall depart the first, be but our precursor to heaven. May he there be found to greet and welcome all who shall die after him. Again may we meet,—not some in heaven and some on earth,—but all in heaven! Let us prove this sweet and blessed vision. Let us not long be sundered. Let death the rather unite than dissever us.

Through the silent shadows gathered upon our dwelling be, O Lord, our Protector. In Thy light there is no darkness at all. We are safe beneath Thy never-closing eye. These limbs compose to rest. Let not our thoughts trouble us. Let not violence be heard, nor wasting and destruction, within our borders. Do Thou keep the city. Restore our life with the light of the returning day. May we throw off dull sloth, remember that religion is the principal thing,

seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and renew our earthly but heavenward pilgrimage. Grant that we may study how to bear one another's burden,—how to do good to all men, but especially to the household of faith, —how to bless society with kindliness, and courtesy, and forgiveness,—how to fill the world with love!

We cleave to the Altar of Atonement, we would be washed in the Laver of Regeneration, we would be suffused with the Incense of Intercession. Complete Thy work in us. Show us the path of life. Raise us up at the last day. Bring forth judgment unto victory. Fix the head-stone with shoutings,—Grace, Grace unto it!

And now unto the Father who hath loved His church with an everlasting love,—to the Son whom we should honour even as we honour the Father,—to the Spirit proceeding from the Father, the Spirit of Christ,—be blessing, and honour, and glory, and power! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Thou art no strange God whom we now address! Our fathers trusted in Thee! We have proved

Thy fidelity and goodness! Thou hast not been a wilderness unto us, nor a land of darkness. Thou hast not turned away our prayer, nor Thy mercy from us. Again Thou displayest Thy love and pity. Truly the light is sweet. Sleep has refreshed and restored us. Its unconscious interval did not separate us from Thy vigilance. Still Thine excellency is over us. From the tabernacle which Thou hast prepared for it, Thou sendest forth the sun. Thou awakenest nature into animation and beauty. The little hills rejoice on every side. The birds sing among the branches. All wait upon Thee. Thou openest Thy hand, and the want of every living thing is abundantly, instantly, relieved. Thou art the Source of all good! Thou art the Fountain of living waters! Thou art our arm every morning; and our salvation also in the time of trouble. We thank Thee that ever we heard of the Saviour's name. What debtors are we to its inestimable worth and sweetness! To them who believe is He indeed precious. When refuge failed us, and hope died in us, His arm brought salvation to us. How can we then but dwell upon that name! It is more fragrant than ointment poured forth. Ever be it endeared, ever be it adored! We plead it in this our act of worship. May we be accepted in the Beloved. May Christ's sake be substituted, and prevail, for us. Glory be to Thee that He is the

same to-day that He ever was, and ever can be, —a Saviour and Intercessor still. Thus will we freely sacrifice unto the Lord!

Our prayer ascends to Thee, to send down upon us Thy free and good Spirit. How helpless, strengthless, are we! May He illuminate and quicken us. May He dwell in us and abide with us for ever. May He teach us to pray. May He melt us into repentance. May He sanctify us wholly. Let us not in thought, word, or deed, grieve Him. Let us not, by any thing inconsistent with His mind and will, resist Him. May His anointing teach us all things, His witness respond to our adoption, and His seal be on us until the day of redemption.

We entreat grace to aid us through these hours of the day. Always are we accountable to Thee, and are always in Thy sight. Constantly are our thoughts and acts, all the deeds done in our body, coming up before Thy notice, and abiding in Thy remembrance. The history of this day is even now transcribing in the Books which the Judgment will open! Better shall we then recall it, and more distinctly retrace it, than even we can when this night closes upon it. O every day is a solemn, important, period of our life! Let us not decline a duty which it brings with it. Let us not postpone an opportunity which it offers. Let us not suffer it to pass from

us without a holy note and impress. Let us leave some proof of devoted usefulness among our fellow creatures. But who is sufficient for these things? May our labour be in the Lord! As our days, may our strength be! We ask that we may possess the answer of a good conscience: the conscience void of offence towards God and man. Let integrity and uprightness preserve us. Let us have the rejoicing of this inward testimony that with simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have our conversation in the world. Let us never do what we know not to be strictly right. Let us never prevaricate with the obligations of truth, judgment, and mercy. May we shun every crooked path. May we deprecate every approach to the border-line betwixt duty and transgression. May we abhor what is evil, and only less the appearance of evil. So may we cut off occasion from them who seek occasion to hinder Thy Gospel, and blaspheme Thy grace. So may they of the contrary part be ashamed.

Thy people, O Lord, know many changes, while Thy foes, not knowing them, fear Thee not. How many may a day comprise! We know not what this one may bring forth. Our strongest hold may fail us. The ties of deepest affection may be lacerated. There may be but a step between us and death. But how blessed is it

that we may leave ourselves with Thee! The management of our affairs, the course of our steps, the preservation of our bodies, the care of our families, the safeguard of our souls, all, all, we confide to Thy wisdom, and merciful omnipotence! Thou art our Rock: our God, in Thee will we trust.

Remember our kindred and friends. May they be added unto the Lord. Let them be partners with us, and partakers of the benefit. Suffer them not to walk in their own ways. May they be drawn into Thy family by the Spirit of adoption. May they be so given unto us that we may receive them for ever. May we ourselves believe, and our whole house!

Bless, we implore Thee, Thy missionary servants. When we bade them farewell, and kneeled down with them, in imagination if not in fact, on the shore, we pledged to them our prayers. With solemn tenderness we now make mention of them before Thee. Rebuke kings and nations for their sake,—saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. Never may they regret the hour which gave them to their work! Never may they forsake it! Never may they so much as falter in it! Keep them as the apple of Thine eye! The Lord Jesus be with their spirits!

Direct the government of this country. We

pray for its peace. May we be the quiet in the land. May the holy seed be the substance of it. May houses of prayer cover it, and unbroken Sabbaths gladden it. Prepare mercy and truth to go before the face of our Sovereign, and may the people be all righteous. May righteousness exalt the nation; and wisdom and knowledge be the stability of our times.

Having commended ourselves to Thee, O Blessed Father, we go forth to our allotted scene. Be not far from us. May we eat the labour of our hands: happy may we be, and let it be well with us. Behold, as the eyes of servants are unto the hand of their masters, so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that He have mercy upon us. Life is in Thy favour, Heaven in Thy smile. When the night gathers around us, may we meet again with the consciousness that we have not lost a day,—grateful,—and in peace.

Accept us and our service in the name of Thy well-beloved Son; may His righteousness be unto us and upon us, and His intercession for us, most unworthy sinners, prevail. And to Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be the ascriptions of an everlasting praise!

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

AUTHOR of our being, of all its supplies and pleasures, of whatever sustains and gladdens it,—our health of body, our exercise of reason, our peace of mind, our enjoyment of friendship, our capability of religion, our hope of the life to come! All our springs are in Thee! Thou art the saving strength of Thine anointed. Thy Divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. Thou sayest unto us, Rejoice in thy going out, and in thy tents!

We draw near unto Thee, most gracious God, in the name of Thy dear Son. Our best obedience falls short entirely of the smallest power to justify us. It dares not meet Thine eye. We would mourn at the Saviour's feet as the penitent who washed them with her tears: we would turn to the Saviour's Cross as the malefactor who sighed to him his first, last, only supplication! Are we better than they? No, in no wise. Where they sought mercy, there would we: where they found it, we would find it also. Give us their broken heart. Endue us with their meekness and contrition. Let us think and feel likewise. Let our dependence be on the

Atonement of Him who was bruised for our iniquities. It ever was, and ever shall be, an offering and a sacrifice unto Thee for a sweet smelling savour! And thus only canst Thou be well-pleased in us!

We seek a renewed interest in all the sure mercies of Thy covenant. We pray that it may be established between Thyself and all of this household. Be very favourable unto Thy servants, and in mercy regard them. Thy grace alone can distinguish us from the perishing and the lost. If Thou be silent, we shall be like them who go down into the pit. Let none of us fail of the grace of God. May we consider one another, and look diligently lest any of us should be found thus miserably destitute!

Give to us a peculiar property in Thy general vouchsafements. Thy sun arises upon the evil and the good, Thy rain descends upon the just and the unjust. Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. But may the most common good be enjoyed by us as a token of filial acceptance and favour! Grant unto us the Spirit of adoption: the happy witness that we are Thy children. We would consciously enjoy Thy loving-kindness, and walk in the light of Thy countenance. We would foster every filial disposition of cheerful content and grateful reliance. Guide us, defend us, supply us, O our Father! By the skilfulness

of Thy hands, and according to the integrity of Thy heart, still counsel our inexperience, and soothe our impatience. May the pure beam of Thine eye be ever settled over us to awe and to console our spirits. Let not our corruptions prevail. Let not our afflictions overwhelm us, nor our enemies prevail against us. Let them be turned back who seek our hurt. We are happy if Thou but know our soul in adversities. We are safe if Thou protect us, though a host should encamp against us. The Lord of Hosts be with us, the God of Jacob be our refuge!

The retrospect of every day is calculated to humble us. We confess, we mourn, before Thee our inactivity in those duties to which all others should be held subordinate. We confess, we mourn, our too great indifference concerning the strength and supremacy of holy principle. We confess, we mourn, that our simplest motive contains so large an admixture of what is unworthy and irreligious, of the world and not of Thyself. We confess, we mourn, the dimness of that impression which we have retained of everlasting things. How are we shamed by the superior self-denial and enterprise of those who serve and seek this earth! How much wiser are the children of this world in their generation than we who profess to be the children of light! How far more intent are they on their corruptible

crown, than we seem on ours which is incorruptible! For Thy Name's sake O Lord, pardon our iniquity, for it is great! Let not Thy long-suffering to us-ward cease nor weary! We need indeed a plenteous redemption, a great salvation! Multiply to pardon! May we receive grace for grace! What iniquity canst Thou not forgive? What transgression hast Thou not passed by? Turn again, have compassion upon us, subdue our iniquities, and cast all our sins into the depths of the sea!

Continue Thy mercies to us, in health, in subsistence, in universal quiet and peace. May our unity be holy as the ointment of Aaron, and refreshing as the dew of Hermon. May our defence be in the shadow of Thy wings!

Bless our friends and relations. However we be separated from them, have Thou them in Thine eye, Thy hand, Thy heart. May they be obedient to the faith. By different paths may we be travelling to our home in heaven. There may we meet to part no more!

O send out Thy light and Thy truth. Remember the messengers of our churches among the heathen. By their service, turn the world from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God. Cast the accuser of the brethren down. May Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Sit Thou King for ever!

Command deliverance from every harm during this night, and compose our slumber. May He who was in all things made like unto His brethren,—who slept, though oft denied a place where He might lay his head,—who, amidst the hour and power of darkness in the garden, did but gently chide his disciples that the willing spirit should be oppressed by the flesh which was weak,—may He secure and soothe, and then awake us! Let to-morrow be as this day as to mercy, but far better as to obedience! Long as we live may we show forth Thy salvation, from day to day!—In a Saviour's name we ask and offer, what we could not in our own. Blessed be the Triune for evermore! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O God of all the families of Thine Israel! These Thou knowest, in a special manner, only of all the families of the earth! We now gather around our domestic altar, and lift up our souls unto Thee with the sweet odour of this early offering! Ours is not indeed the altar of atonement, nor the offering of propitiation! But we have an altar, a great altar to look to, where we poor and guilty

creatures can take refuge, on which the Lamb was slain as the victim: we have a propitiation for our sins. We set not up our altar against Thine: nor would we entertain a hope but in that blood by which Thou dost reconcile us unto Thyself. We rear it but as our monument of gratitude, without efficacy and virtue; and simply lay upon it our oblation of thanksgiving and prayer. We humbly confess that we are vile in Thy sight: may we be so in our own. Thou mightest put us away with abhorring: may we abhor ourselves. We need a Mediator when we present our vows as well as when we make supplication! By Him, the only Mediator, we now offer the sacrifice of praise, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks unto Thy name.

Thou, Lord, searchest the hearts of the children of men. Our prostrate attitude, our seeming worship, cannot deceive Thee. Thou understandest our thought afar off. Put from us every desire to mock Thee! It is a solemn thing that Thou compassest our path, and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways. But if this assurance causes us to stand in awe of Thee, how fixed should be our attention and how reverent our feeling when we professedly seek Thy presence, imploring Thee to behold us and to incline Thine ear to the voice of our cry! Oh that every one of us may be intent and serious. Suffer not

a listless, wandering, thought and emotion. May we serve Thee in our spirit. May all that is within us bless Thy holy name. How dreadful would it be if any were heartless and hypocritical at a season so hallowed, and in a circle so small!

Behold from the habitation of Thy holiness and of Thy glory! We sinners do beseech Thee to hear us. To whom can we go but unto Thee? Save, or we perish. Humble us under Thy mighty hand. Bow down our stubborn haughty neck to the sweet yoke of Christ. Let us look to Thee with no pride of countenance. God be merciful unto us sinners. We entreat Thee to forgive our transgressions, accept our persons, and purify our hearts. Individually we crave this infinite benefit, this plenteous redemption. Wash us throughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. May salvation come to this house!

How manifold are Thy mercies, how precious Thy thoughts, unto us, O God! We meet this morning in peace, and enjoy the multitude of Thy compassions. Our sleep might have been death. Our bed might have been in the invisible world. Our souls, required of us, might not have now even stood in Thy judgment, but have been banished into the outer darkness. It is of Thy mercies that we are not consumed.

And we bless Thee, if we love these exercises, and rejoice in their return. It is good for us to draw near to Thee. And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee. May we all taste that Thou art *gracious*, as well as prove Thee bounteous and long-suffering.

All are not happy homes. Have mercy, O God, upon the workers of iniquity who have no knowledge, who call not upon Thee. Let Thy worship be established in all the families of earth. In each let there be the son of peace and the law of love. In Jesus, the Seed of Abraham, may they all be blessed.

Thou seest the end from the beginning of all time and all things,—*we* cannot say what a day shall bring forth. We would renew our confidence in Thee, and repeat our daily prayer for guidance and support. Let us remember that we are solemnly accountable to Thee, and may the ways of duty be always in our hearts. May all the talents lent to us be diligently improved. Keep us from the snares of sloth and indifference. Forbid that we should pass an unprofitable minute. May we resist temptation, endure affliction in meekness, not be partial in Thy law, but love it because it is exceeding broad, and thus accomplish our day.

While we separate for our particular engagements, be very near unto us and mindful of us.

Often may we commend each other to Thy blessing in prayer. When removed from mutual observation may we seek the good of all. Save us from a dissembling or a selfish spirit. Make our heart soft. Preserve our conscience tender. Keep us in Thy fear all the day long.

May we remember how soon we must, how suddenly we may, be called to die. In the anticipation of that scene, and in habitual readiness for it, may we die daily. As our soul is in departing, may it tell aloud of Thy faithfulness, and be filled with Thy peace.

We pray not for ourselves alone, but for all the dwellers on earth. We desire to guard against that contracted temper which even domestic interest and complacency might induce. Be known among the families of the heathen. We adore Thee that households of faith are rising and multiplying among them,—that divine charities are supplanting the most repugnant vices,—and that they who were without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful, now cherish every sympathy and delight of a Christian home. Remember our beloved Missionaries who have instrumentally wrought this change, and, in their own rejoicing spirits and peaceful dwellings, may they receive a full reward.

And now we cast ourselves upon Thy care, for Thou carest for us. They are safe whom

Thou keepest. The Lord be our keeper. They are happy who serve Thee: we ask no more blessed employ. And when the shadows of the evening are stretched out, once more may we assemble and celebrate our evening rite: having new occasion, and feeling increased disposition, to bless Thee, who art our life, and the length of our days.

We only can present ourselves, together with our petitions and adorations, in the faith of the Saviour's name, and with an entire reliance on His once offered, and still perpetually pleaded, sacrifice. Receive our homage, O Jehovah in Trinity, O Holy and Blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit, in covenant for our salvation!

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

EVER-BLESSED GOD! who dwellest on high among the seraphim acclaiming to one another the ascription of Thine awful holiness,—Thou that art surrounded by the spirits of ransomed men, whose grateful melody, while they sing the new song, is like the voice of harpers harping with their harps,—disdain not our poor unworthy

service which we this evening would pay unto Thee! They form the family in heaven, may we be a part of the family on earth,—that both constituting the same whole family, we may comprehend with all Thy saints found throughout Thy dominion-universe the love of Jesus Christ; and raising our feeble voice in concert with theirs, may now come to the innumerable company of angels, and to the spirits of just men made perfect! We will sing unto the Lord as long as we live: we will sing praise unto our God while we have our being. We adore the riches of Thy goodness towards us since last we bent the knee together. We went forth unto our work, and to our labour until the evening. Thou hast sustained us. Thy grace whenever sought has been sufficient for us. Our bodily wants have been supplied. Thou who feedest the fowls of the air, who clothest the lilies of the field, hast fed and clothed us. We have lacked no good and necessary thing. Thou hast made the outgoing of the morning and evening to rejoice. And now we meet once more to speak good of Thy name. Our eyes must be blinded if they do not observe, our hearts must be stone if they do not feel, the loving-kindness of the Lord.

And now in this hour of calm and stillness, may our spirits lose the disquietude, and shake off the soil, they may have contracted in their inter-

course with the world. O did we perceive its vanity more! and were more intent to be kept from its evil! Might we more distinctly regard it as the desert-track over which our journey lies, not shrinking from the thorns which infest it, not discouraged by reason of the tedious way, but rejoicing to run the race! Put far from us the pride of life! Let us not be of the world, but His who overcame it!

We would hasten to Thee as a God pardoning iniquity, transgression, and sin. We need a renewed sprinkling of the Atoning Blood. Let all the sweet smell of the One Offering breathe over our conscience, let all its virtue settle on our heart. May we learn and prove what the Scripture meaneth; "the blood of Jesus Christ the Son cleanseth from all sin." May the application of its efficacy at once purify and soothe, discover to us the evil of sin while healing all the wounds! Alas, how many are the grounds for self-upbraiding! In many things we offend all. Put from us our wickedness that we may not die. We cannot close this day without humbling ourselves before Thee to the very dust, that we have loved Thee so faintly and served Thee so imperfectly.

Abide with us for the day is far spent. We are not worthy that Thou shouldst come under our roof. Why shouldst Thou be as a stranger in the land, and a way-faring man that turneth aside

to tarry for a night? Be always at the head of us. O Most High be ever our refuge and our habitation. Thy presence gladdens, and only can gladden, all. Only are we right when Thou art our guide, only safe when Thou art our defender, only rich when Thou art our portion, only happy when Thou art our good!

We would think upon the many families which at this moment suffer adversity. Their joy is turned into mourning. They are covered with sackcloth. Their hope is removed and their number broken. May the Comforter visit them. May the God who comforteth those that are cast down be a very present help in their time of trouble.

We beseech Thy blessing upon all pastors and evangelists: them who feed Thy church as its overseers, and them who preach the everlasting Gospel to the unenlightened of this and other nations. Have respect unto Thy covenant, for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. Bless and secure the men who have hazarded their lives for the sake of the Lord Jesus. Let none set on them to hurt them. Under Thy shadow may they dwell among the heathen.

And now be the Eyes on us which never slumber nor sleep! Now be wound about us the Everlasting Arms! Our wearied frames and

minds ask of Thee repose. Give to us, as to Thy beloved, sleep. May we be safe beneath the care of Him who is not ashamed to call us brethren, who when on earth was often wearied, and who sunk into slumber which the storm could not disturb. May our earliest thoughts, if we be spared until to-morrow, arise to Thy footstool: when we awake, may we be still with Thee!

Soon shall a deeper sleep fall upon us than that we now await: a deeper shade shall wrap than that now gathered around us. We must sleep in death, and be laid down in the night of the grave. May that sleep be balmy to us as that we now entreat, and that night be as welcome. May we sleep in Jesus! May we His servants earnestly desire that shadow!

The Lord Jesus is our only hope, and His sacrifice our only plea, that we can be heard of Thee in these things: but we know that He will ask the Father for us. And now and for evermore be ascribed to the Triune Jehovah, the God of the Christians, praise on earth, and glory in the highest!

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

God of the morning! hear our voice, for early will we seek Thee! Renewed by our sleep, once more, after the mysterious suspension of our powers, we would fix our hearts upon Thee! When most defenceless, while we have for a little season died to all around us, Thou hast exercised towards us Thy sleepless care. Thou hast given Thine angels charge over us. Thou hast made us dwell in safety. We laid us down and slept: we awaked, for the Lord sustained us. O how worthy art Thou to be praised! Thy servants who stand by our earthly night in Thy heavenly house, and lift up their hands for ever in that sanctuary, have not paused in their worship during our infirmity: we desire now to wake up our glory, and to blend our notes with the anthems of the skies. "Bless the Lord, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word! Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts, ye ministers of His which do His pleasure! Bless the Lord, O our souls!"

These our sacrifices will not, cannot, be those of righteousness save that they be offered on the altar of atonement, the altar at which we bend to obtain purification and peace, the altar which

sanctifieth the giver and the gift. We come before Thee, O Holy and Jealous God, with the strong importunity and pleadings of the Blood which speaketh for us! Let its cry of entreaty and power enter Thine ear! May its meek stress, its tender expostulation, prevail!

Thou ordainest our lot. Thou performest all things for us. How different might have been our present circumstances. The earth might have swallowed us and our household. Out of heaven Thou mightest have thundered upon us. Fire might have consumed our dwelling, and we might have been the unrescued victims of the flames. Wicked and unreasonable men might have despoiled our goods. Disease might have fastened on our bodies, or still more dismally on our minds. Death might have come up into our windows. This might have been the house of mourning. How hast Thou compassed us with Thy favour as with a shield! How hast Thou warded off all impending harm! Thou hast been our shade on our right hand! Thy wings have been outspread over us! There has no evil befallen us, neither has any plague come nigh our dwelling!

Impress us constantly with a sense of our accountability to Thee. To Thee we owe our time, our property, our influence, our all. Thou hast only put us in trust with them. Thou wilt soon come and reckon with us. May we occupy

until Thou shalt come. May we feel that at best we are unprofitable servants, but let us not be slothful ones. Let us carry the principle of duty into every scene of life and relation of society. Let us study to show ourselves approved unto God. May we never say, "Our Lord delayeth his coming."

Be very mindful of us during the day. O Lord we know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. We are frail and unstable, as the leaf driven to and fro. We are crushed ere the moth. Guide us with Thine eye. Strengthen us with strength in our souls. Hold Thou us up, and we shall be safe!

May we be a holy and devout household. May every member and every inmate of it be a subject of Thy rich and saving grace. May it be as the home for which the disciples of Jesus sought when they said, Master where dwellest Thou? Blessed Saviour, stand not without nor knock in vain, may each heart hear Thy voice, and open unto Thee, and do Thou come in to us, as to Thy chosen banquet and Thy fixed abode! Forgive the murmur of them who will truly say, That Thou art gone to be guest with those who are sinners!

We ask of Thee to help us in our duties and support us in all our trials. Sufficient unto the

day is the evil thereof, and this may be one of the evil days, as it is one of the few, of our pilgrimage. Let Thy grace be sufficient for us. Preserve us from all that can injure our piety and wound our peace. Keep us from all evil that it may not grieve us.

The time shall soon draw near when we must die. One after another of this happy circle will be removed. We know not who shall be the survivor of all, or whether we may not be taken away by some common stroke. O may we meet where separation never utters its farewell, death shall be forgotten, and fear for each other's eternal safety can no more dismay us,—a family gathered all into heaven!

Arise and have mercy upon Zion. May we care for the things of the Lord. Let the interests of Thy kingdom wind themselves round our hearts. Be with the faithful minister and missionary of every name. Confirm the profession of converts from idolatry and superstition. We thank Thee that Thou hast showed Thy righteousness openly in the sight of the heathen. We acknowledge Thy power working with the messengers of our churches in foreign lands. Fulfil each pledge, exceed each hope. Strengthen what Thou hast wrought for us! Give us the heritage of the heathen!

Thy blessing is upon Thy people. May that

blessing be upon us through these hours, when we go in and out, when we sit in the house, when we walk by the way, mingling with our whole history, pervading our entire being!

Jesus, Intercessor for us at the right hand of the Majesty on High, through Thee we offer our praises and our prayers! O Lord plead our cause! And to the Godhead, Father, Son, and Spirit, be equal, endless, honours! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

UNTO Thee lift we up our eyes, O Thou that dwellest in the heavens! Behold as the eyes of servants look unto the hand of their masters, so our eyes wait upon the Lord our God, until that He have mercy upon us! Have mercy upon us, O Lord have mercy upon us! Thou art in Christ, —Thou canst, Thou wilt, forgive! Where is he for whose soul there is no hope in God? Who was ever in any wise cast out by the Friend of sinners? Therefore we have hope,—therefore we would not doubt that we shall be received by Him! But never suffer us to forget the means Thy mercy has devised and provided for its mani-

festation. What a price was paid for our redemption! With an infinite ease Thou didst rear the universe,—the glorious effect of Thy will sprang up, delayed not by a moment, unsusceptible of an improvement.—But when Thou didst resolve to accomplish our rescue, to lead our captivity captive, to bring us again as Thy people, Oh the depth of those plans, the difficulty of those operations, the severity of those sacrifices, which were required for the end! What suspense on earth! What silence in heaven! And then amidst the agonies, the groans, the horrors, the shudderings of Mount Calvary was seen the Deliverance! Write it for ever on our heart, that we may in some degree appreciate Thy Love, feel how precious is the redemption of our soul, and abhor from our inmost feelings that accursed thing which seemed to reduce Thy might and mercy to their very strait!

We would show forth Thy faithfulness every night. Another day of mercy has been added to our short time on earth. Thou hast guarded us from harm. Thou hast cast for us a quiet lot. Thou fillest us with all good things. We would not be envious of them whom Thou hast set in slippery places. We would recollect that they shall not be planted, yea, that their stock shall not take root in the earth. May we understand their end. How are they brought into desolation, as a

moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors! Happy in Thy favour, no good thing wilt Thou withhold from us. Thou knowest whatever we need. And Oh what a pledge of every inferior blessing hast Thou given to us in the salvation of Christ Jesus! Meekly but confidently would we plead it: He that spared not His own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? And be it ever our privileged state of mind to connect our more familiar enjoyments with Thy Covenant, and with Him who is its one Mediator,—to trace all long-suffering and subsistence to the grace which much more abounds than even sin,—thus seeing in our daily bread the children's bread; acknowledging the same hand in clothing us as covered with the relics of sacrifice our first parents; and looking through the Providence which is over all Thy works to that special Loving-kindness which has its Sabbath of sweet delight in dwelling upon Thy people, and which rejoices over them even with joy and singing.

Who but Thyself would not weary of our constant prayer for pardon? How deep is our guilt. That of this day would suffice, in strictest justice, to lay us under all the curse of Thy law. Yet Thou hast supposed that the forgiveness of our trespasses would be as often required as the supply of our bodily wants. On the same knees

we solicit both. But let the remission of our sins be our first thought and our chief petition. How dreadful would it be, if it were refused,—and how blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity! We implore Thine abundant pardon. We would not attempt to make our peace with Thee,—we seek it as already and exclusively made by the blood of the Cross. Vouchsafe Thy Holy Spirit,—for we would believe, repent, and henceforth keep Thy commandments. Let the Spirit of grace dwell in us as the Spirit of holiness. May the Comforter abide with us for ever!

Think in mercy upon this family. May it be so with Thee as that Thou shalt make it grow for ever. Be Thou our strong habitation, whereunto we may continually resort. May the bland charities of domestic piety find here a home. May all take hold of the paths of life. Let there be only known among us the voice of truth and the hand of integrity. Let the law of kindness prevail. Let it be proved in us that the righteous is more excellent than his neighbour.

We would bear in remembrance the case of our unconverted friends. Such were we, until Thou wast found of us who sought Thee not. Thy grace maketh to differ. We shudder to think of the ruin which may overtake them. Too deeply have we mourned it to say, Behold we knew it not. Suffer them not to perish. May

they save themselves from this generation. May they learn to hate the world. May they vanquish their last prejudices. Thou canst unscale the blindest eye. Thou canst dissolve the hardest heart. Thine must be the work. Thou shalt be the God of our praise!

We pray that the word of the Lord may have free course, run, and be glorified. Maintain and increase our churches. May their pastors be stars in Thy right hand. Nor would we be unmindful of missionaries, their settlements and converts. Let Thy most manifest favour smile upon them. Drive not out the heathen before them, but draw all men, O Saviour, to Thyself. Thus shall these Thy devoted servants, Thine Elect, long enjoy the work of their hands.

Impress, O God, more seriously upon our minds the hastening scenes of our mortality. Our life is a shadow, and the shadow declineth. The hand-writing of death is in us. May that event be welcome to us. May we have a desire to depart. And as to the circumstance of death, its issues being assured, may we have no apprehension. May it be but the folding back of a curtain, the overstepping of a rill!

May we now rest in security and sleep in peace. May we feel as though the darkness were but the shadow of Thy wings. Direct, if ours be conscious dreams, our thoughts, no longer under

our control, to what is good and holy: and may the earliest awakenings of reason and feeling be altogether Thine!

We make known our requests and offer our praises, in the Name and for the sake, of Jesus Christ our Lord!

We would now perform our solemn act of adoration to the Great God, even our Saviour! Father! Son! and Spirit! the One in Three! the Three in One!

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

THERE is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, the God of all his people, their God in every place! Unrestricted, boundless, is Thy love. Who in the heavens can be compared to Thee, or who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto our God! There is no searching of thine understanding, but it sets its thoughts upon Thy children. Thy power is omnipotent, but it shows itself strong upon their behalf. In Thy love and pity Thou didst redeem them. Thou dost still bear and carry them as of old. In their affliction Thou art afflicted, and the angel of Thy presence saves them. Thou knowest them

who are Thine. There is none greater than Thou, and none shall pluck them out of Thy hand. Oh may we thus be taken out of the nations and be chosen: may we thus be called, justified, and glorified!

How can we be just with God? We own ourselves guilty before Thee. If Thy holiest servants have bewailed their transgressions of heart, how should we grovel to the very dust. How have our offences multiplied against Thee! How have iniquities prevailed against us! often have we dreadly asked ourselves, is there knowledge in the Most High? Dost thou keep a book of remembrance? Dost thou know us altogether? Dost thou set our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance? Wilt Thou call us into judgment with Thee? Then is it, when only we can remember our vileness, that we exclaim, —Depart from us, for we are sinful men, O Lord! But to whom shall we go but unto Thee? Who can tell if Thou wilt repent and leave a blessing behind Thee? Oh we appear before Thee, assured that there is forgiveness with Thee, that Thou wilt have mercy on us, that Thou wilt abundantly pardon! The everlasting righteousness is brought in. The Lamb is slain. The Propitiatory is established. We plead these merits as those by which we can be only justified. May we rest upon them. May it be

given to us on the behalf of Christ to believe on His name. Be it ours to realize the sweet peace with which only He can soothe the ruffled spirit, may He take each soul before him, like the wearied dove, into His ark.

Another page of mercy have we now to write. New claims dost Thou prefer on our gratitude. We might have been only born to trouble. Our soul might have forgotten prosperity. Tears might have been our drink day and night. Our life might have been bitter to us. Days and years might have come of which we should have said, we have no pleasure in them. We have food and raiment, shelter and home. The eye of affection turns on us, and for us wakes up the smile of love. Thy candle shineth on our tabernacle! And then too what truths and hopes revive with our memory! Thou hast given us Thine only begotten Son. Thou, who canst not lie, hast promised us eternal life. Thou dost cause to flow downward upon this earth strong consolation. We assemble as a Christian family. Our Father is in heaven. The first-born among many brethren is Lord over us. Thy statutes are with us, and there is hope concerning our end. Must we not exclaim, In this is manifest the love of God toward us! Cold and unfeeling are our hearts, if such recollections do not move them.

May these our domestic offices of piety be accounted by us to be our most solemn duties, and our most distinguished comforts. Let them never find us in a state of mind indifferent to them, and averse to repeat them. Can we too often speak of Thy faithfulness, and talk of Thy wonderful works? Shall we feel it a strange thing to confess our obligations to Thee? Shall we, like the beasts around us, partake Thy bounty with unreasoning minds and thankless hearts? Give to us Thy Holy Spirit to overcome the ungodliness of our hearts. May His Fire, and the Incense of Jesus, be ever burning on our altar.

Direct and sanctify us in the active business of this day. Preserve us from that selfishness, which however it takes a more flattering name, is abhorrent to Thee. Let no malevolent feeling, no pining envy, no sudden anger, violate the law of love. Suffer not a temper of sloth in us, nor let us dare to reserve to ourselves an idle moment. Let not worldlymindedness be substituted for that diligence which is commendable and necessary. Let our gain be sanctified to Thee. Let us break into pieces the idol of covetousness. Let God and His cause have our heart, may we do all to Him, may we hold every thing in dependence upon Him, may all acquired influence, all accruing advantage, be laid

out for Him, so shall we be as though we possessed nothing in our right or by our power, we shall use the world as not abusing, we shall mind our own business while we seek first Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness, our labour being without sorrow, and our care without vexation. May we live to bless the world, but so long as it is not of the Father may we never be its friend.

We supplicate the extension of true religion. May it mightily prevail. May we strive together for the faith of the gospel. Give us grace to resolve that we will more steadfastly abound in this work of the Lord. Make us more zealously affected in it. Next to the care of our own souls, may this be nearest to our hearts. Teach the nations that they are but men, and if in thus knowing themselves, they lose their vanity and discard their vain show, may they in a true self-appreciation learn their original dignity, and aspire to its recovery in glory, honour, and immortality. Let them see how they have been deceived, abused, and enslaved,—and break their fetters, and assert the rights of those for whom Christ has died and is now preparing heaven. Forget not Thy servants labouring earnestly in the word and doctrine, throughout our native land and in our Missionary stations. Cast on them many a gracious smile. Let the light of

Thy countenance settle on their spirits. Encourage them and have pleasure in their prosperity. May they not run in vain, nor labour in vain. Around them may many a plantation thrive, and many a spiritual temple lift up itself; so that they may refer to these as the proof that they have not cultivated their field, nor piled their stones, in vain,—Ye are God's husbandry, Ye are God's building.

Receive us now into Thy keeping, O Thou faithful Creator. Cover us with Thy feathers, and under Thy wings may we trust. Be with us continually, and may we wait upon Thee, by dependence and obedience, all the day. In the name of Jesus we only hope, we only ask, to be heard,—He shall prevail for us!

And to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, One God, be glory everlasting! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

GIVE ear, O Shepherd of Israel! To Thee do we look up! In Thee do we put our trust! Our tongue shall speak of righteousness, and of Thy praise, all the day long! And if evening

brings with it weariness, and imposes silence, still would we to our last wakeful moment remember Thy loving-kindness and sing Thy praise. And now that the tumult of the week subsides, and the preparation of the Sabbath hastens on, may we be thankful to rid our minds of care and anxiety, thus awaiting the day of rest! To-morrow we may never see, but Sabbath may we keep on earth or in heaven! Never more, it may be, shall we rehearse the songs of Zion nor frequent the courts of Jerusalem: but with all Thy sealed myriads may we stand on Thy Heavenly Zion, and with all the nations of the saved traverse the streets of the Jerusalem which is above,—the Mother of us all!

Christ Jesus the Lord, Thou who dost not cast out in any wise them who come unto Thee, Friend of sinners, Saviour of the lost, we flee to Thy cross to hide us! There would we find our peace in Thy blood! Be Surety for us to the Eternal Justice! Undertake our entire salvation! Answer the law in its charges against us! Rebuke the accuser of the brethren in his cruel suggestions! Cover our conscience with Thine atonement! Now offer Thy much incense! Now plead Thy one offering for sins! Now appear in the presence of God for us!

The close of another week humbles us. What duties has it enjoined which we have

neglected! What opportunities of personal improvement and public usefulness did it provide which we have slighted! What sins have we committed! Of what carelessness have we been guilty! How far have we fallen below our privileges! How little have we been impressed with our high calling! Not lightly, but most seriously, would we implore Thy pardoning mercy. Save or we perish! Only can an Infinite Mediator stand between us and Thee! Only can an Infinite Righteousness outweigh our demerits! Only can an Infinite Expiation cleanse away our sins!

We have many Providential obligations to acknowledge, constant as the wants and moments of another week. The favours we have enjoyed have not been less owing to Thee, than had miracle dispensed them. Nor should we have been bound in any greater degree to magnify Thy goodness, had our bread fallen immediately from the clouds, or had our water gushed from the flinty rock. There is no channel, however apparently devious, which Thou dost not open and supply; there is nothing, though it springs apparently from the ground, which Thou dost not really make to grow! How deeply indebted are we to Thee that thus we can conclude another section of our days! Around this peaceful altar we unite our grateful strains.

Praise indeed is comely. It is a good thing to give thanks. And can we repress or refuse our adoration while a week of mercy now recedes, and another holy Sabbath is prepared with the morning? O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, for His wonderful works to the children of men!

We beseech Thee for the sleep which refreshes both the body and the mind, that the renewed powers of both may be offered up to Thee when the coming day shall break. May we throw from us dull sloth, and early seek Thee. In acts of private devotion let us find the preparation of the sanctuary. Then again assembled about this altar may we greet each other in health and peace. May our Sabbath sacrifice mount with lively flame and sweet odour from it. Then may we mingle with the tribes repairing to Thy house. May we bend where Thy honour dwelleth. May we behold Thy beauty. May we enquire in Thy temple!

Bless to Thy churches the Christian ministry. For so many faithful pastors, for the multitude of them who publish Thy word, we would ardently give Thee thanks. Let not their usefulness be confined to the edifying of Thy people; may they gather the outcasts; may they gather others to Thee, beside those that are gathered unto Thee! Give this Thine ordinance of a

preached gospel all its success. Ever hast Thou honoured it. By it Thou hast subdued kingdoms. Thou hast caused it to shake the gates of hell. Yet Thou art jealous that the instruments whom Thou dost send should not take Thy glory. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. May we never serve the creature. May we never place man to sit as God in the temple of God. May we esteem such very highly for their work's sake, never depreciate those whom Thou sent, rejoice that to our fellow-man a dispensation of the gospel has been committed, obey them who have the rule over us,—and still remember that the excellency of the power is of God, and not of them!

Be pleased to bless our own pastor. May he be filled with all the gifts which the ascended Saviour received for the purpose of such endowment. May we respond to his earnest claim and suit upon our prayers. May our conversion give his soul its best delight, and our spiritual improvement strengthen his hands. May we love to help together with him, cheerfully co-operate in his attempts at usefulness, protect his character and subserve his success!

Remember our honoured missionaries. Rest in Thy love, as in Thy Sabbath, toward them. Our calm blessed day visits but few of the lands

where they wander. Thou hast not increased thus the joy of those people. Theirs are the habitations of cruelty. Their sorrows are multiplied in hastening after another God. Let our brethren stand fast in the faith; may they be precious in Thy sight, honourable, and loved by Thee; give men to them, and people for their life!

O what a day is rolling forward, and what a blessing may it prove! How does affliction lift its eye, waiting for its light! How does penitence anticipate its healing balm! How does the ruffled heart long for its quiet! Be it to them according to their faith! But others only meditate for it plans of dissipating pleasure and sin. May Thy grace surprise them! May He, whom they persecute, meet them in the way! May to-morrow's sun set upon their weeping eyes, their stricken conscience, their contrite hearts! May they be added unto the Lord! Such a hope as this might make us cry, Would God it were morning!

And now, O Lord our God, we leave ourselves with Thee, these frail bodies, these helpless spirits, these cherished ties,—our habitation, our all. And then a few hours past, may we awake to a day of rest shining upon us like a gleam from heaven!

And grant, O our Father, that when the

work of life shall draw to its end, as now has the labour of the week, we may be able to say, what now we say, To-morrow is our Sabbath, —but what we cannot now say, To-morrow is the Sabbath of eternity!

To the Father, the Son, the Spirit, of the Holy Trinity,—we would ascribe glory everlasting! Our Hosannah on earth until we raise our Hallelujah in heaven!

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

Second Week.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

THE day is Thine, O Lord! Our every day is Thine. Thy sun enlightens, warms, and cheers it. Thy blessing can alone render its hours pleasant. Thy grace alone can cause us to feel its duties easy and inviting. Thy restraint alone can keep us from offending amidst its enjoyments. Day unto day uttereth speech. How clear and forcible its witness that Thou art great and good!

All our days are Thine! That which opened upon our birth: that which shall close upon our death. Surely goodness and mercy have followed, and as surely shall follow, us all the days of our lives. Not one has passed without some proofs that Thou hast remembered and cared for us. And if we be Thy children, thou hast spoken concerning us for a great while to come. Things present and things to come are ours!

But this day is peculiarly Thine! This is

the day which Thou hast made. Thou didst see all things which Thou hadst made, and behold, they were very good. Still we read these generations of the heavens and of the earth. And still Thou makest us glad through Thy work: we will triumph in the works of Thy hands. But we would keep a nobler festival than even of Creation: and we sing Thy blest praise, the exceeding riches of Thy grace, Thou Great God our Saviour. In Thy love and pity, Thou hast redeemed us. Glory to God in the highest! Hosannah in the highest! Be Thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: let Thy glory be above all the earth. Blessed be the Lord God from everlasting to everlasting! And we would now address Thee with a distinct remembrance that without shedding of blood there is no remission. The Lamb was slain. But our affections are risen with Christ, and set themselves on Him who is in the midst of the Throne. We rejoice that it is witnessed that He liveth. The wounds which poured out blood, now pour forth intercession.

Help us by Thy Holy Spirit! He who brooded over all things when without form, and dark, and void,—and reduced them to order and robed them with light, until Sabbath dawned upon them,—may He move over the face of our souls, dispel their gloom, subdue their disqui-

etude, and smile upon them in the tranquillity, purity, and sweetness of that Sabbath which He only can diffuse around the heart.

We lament before Thee, that those blessed ordinances which are given for life have so little power over us, and fail of their due impression upon our fellow-creatures. We should be like a green olive tree in Thy house. We ought for the time to be teachers, and yet need that one teach us again which be the first principles of the oracles of God. How low are our attainments and feeble our virtues. What little progress have we made in proportion to our means and facilities. We have not resisted unto blood, striving against sin. We cannot see afar off. Too much are we entangled with the affairs of this life. The world has too strong a hold upon our heart. We have not flourished in the courts of our God. Scarcely have we been in Thy great house vessels of dishonour. And while we complain of ourselves, we bewail before Thee that so few take heed to Thy word and are affected by Thy grace. Many are called but few are chosen. Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? When shall a nation be born in a day? When shall nations that knew not Thee run unto Thee? When shall Thy servants go forth in spirit and in power? When shall large districts and neigh-

bourhoods be religiously moved? When shall thousands together be pricked to their hearts? When shall the churches of Thy saints throughout the world put on their strength? When shall divine ordinances acquire their full vitality, unction, and efficiency?—When we implore Thee to assist and help us, we deceive ourselves, and seem to imply that we can do something. Humble us in our nothingness. May we be little in our own eyes. It is as the Lord giveth to every man. Let no flesh glory in Thy presence. Our sufficiency is of Thee! We cannot lie too low! Humbly shall we think of ourselves, if we think as humbly as we ought to think!

Forbid it, Blessed Lord, that any of us should remain uninterested in the blessings of the Gospel. They are set before us and are with all affection and fidelity pressed upon our acceptance. While the light shineth, shall our darkness comprehend it not? While the charmer charmeth never so wisely, shall we be like the deaf adder that stoppeth its ear? Shall we reject the counsel of God against ourselves, and judge ourselves unworthy of everlasting life? Oh fix our attention, may we awake from the dead, may we take heed what we hear and how we hear, let us not be the forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, but we deceive our own selves.

May our hearts live in seeking Thee. May we enter the fellowship of Christ Jesus, win Him, and be found in Him! Let us not frustrate Thy grace, nor sin because it abounds! Let it not be our fearful case that Christ is become of no effect unto us, and that as to us he is dead in vain. If the ministration of condemnation were glorious, how in our sorer punishment, if we die impenitent and unbelieving, shalt Thou, Most Gracious Judge, be justified when Thou speakest and be clear when Thou judgest!

Let us, as a family, exhibit the happy influence of the Sabbath on our dispositions, habits, and intercourse. May this house be ruled well. Let the law of kindness be felt by all as the law of liberty. May they who are placed at its head know Him that is from the beginning. May they who are just entering upon active life overcome the wicked one, and may the word of God abide in them. May the little children know their heavenly Father, and may their sins be forgiven them for the name's sake of their Redeemer. May the stranger within our gate be included within the everlasting covenant which Thou hast made with us, which is ordered in all things and sure. Even may the wicked say of us, How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob, and thy tabernacles, O Israel.

We thank Thee that the Sabbath rolls round

our earth, and that tens of thousands hail its dawning. Thy people every where are glad and rejoice in it. How do converts from heathenism bless it as coming in the name of the Lord! How do they give thanks for the day which attests that they are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints and of the household of God! How do they contrast the Christian assembly and its holy affecting rites, with the impurity and cruelty of the temples they have forsaken! How do our Missionary brethren lift up their hearts over these converts, and what joy have they of them in the Lord! O be this Sabbath a confirmation to the one, and the blest solace of the other. May they fear Thy name from the west, and Thy glory from the rising of the sun.

Again we raise to Thee our reverent and confiding eye. We look unto the hills from which cometh our help. We implore the overshadowing power of the Holy Ghost. May this be the most happy, the most useful Sabbath we have ever spent on earth,—the fullest earnest, and fairest type, of heaven!

In virtue of the blood of the everlasting covenant, by which Thou didst bring from the dead the Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep,—in the name of that High Priest who hath the power of an endless life,—we offer our

prayers and our praises: and we ascribe to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, the glory of our salvation for ever!

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

How can we, O Lord, break off from the blessed engagements of this Holy Day? How happy are Thy servants! How delightful is Thy service! Why cannot we praise Thee continually? Why do we not always wait upon Thee? When shall we be eternally united to Thee? When shall we walk in the light of the Lamb? Thou knowest our frame. Thou rememberest that we are dust. Our power of attention, our capacity of impression, soon fail us; and praise quickly expires on our lip. We lament that Thou hast not all our strength, that we keep back any thing from Thee! It is of Thy mercy that we are not consumed. But Thou dost forbear toward involuntary languor and weariness. Yet while we say, This is our infirmity, we would remember the years of the right hand of the Most High. There, in that blest eternity, Thou reignest with all Thine

ancients gloriously. Lassitude and satiety are not there. They rest not day nor night. Ever new is the Song! Ever blooming is the Palm! Ever living is the pure River of water proceeding out of the Throne! Abel, with a still untiring eye, gazes on a more excellent sacrifice than his own; and though his voice first of all redeemed sinners was heard singing its solitary strain, yet has it never faltered in its thanksgiving: nor shall the million million songs of all who have since been added to him ever know decline! All those happy saints are comprehending still what is the breadth and length and depth and height of the love which passeth knowledge. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, are still sitting in Thy kingdom. They, who without us could not be made perfect, have there a place. They who have received the gift of righteousness there reign in life. Oh unsating is the Heavenly feast! Oh inconsumeable is the Heavenly fervour! Thou, O Lord, art the Lord of that Sabbath! Thy sun can measure a Sabbath such as this closing one of a single day,—Thine own Eternity must circle the Sabbath which like Thyself, and Thy Mercy, endureth for ever!

We sinful, lost, creatures come before Thee in the Name which gave our race their earliest hope, and which still remains their only one. But it is the name of the great God our Saviour.

It is all-sufficient! For it can remove *our* guilt. It can calm *our* fear. For this may every one pray unto Thee! What room can be left for any sinner to despair? We commend ourselves to the merits of His atonement once offered on earth, and still reflected from His Glorified but Scarred Humanity in heaven!

Send down upon us Thy Holy Spirit. In our ignorance, and inaptitude, and moral death, consists the necessity of His convincing and quickening energy. We know that Thy Truth needs no aid to help, no charm to adorn, it. We know that nothing can be added, even by His power, that can constitute it more glorious and more suitable to our circumstances. Open but our eyes to it! Impress but our hearts with it! Excite the corresponding emotion and the congenial sympathy! May we taste and see that Thou art good! May our spiritual senses be exercised to discern and realize it! So may it be effectual in us who believe. So may it be engrafted in us and save our souls.

May it, after all, lie as a solemn and undoubted consideration on our hearts that we are responsible for our belief and our repentance. Let us remember that these are not less our duties because of Thy promised help. Be it impressed upon us that the promise of Thy help but enlarges our accountability. Suffer us

not in any wise to account Thy sovereignty as an excuse for our sloth and procrastination. Never may we fall into a temper which would abuse Thy grace, and derive from it a pretext for our unconcern and supineness.

Scorn not, O God, our humble offering. The praises of Thy Israel no longer swell up as one harmony to Thine ear. In the congregations can we no longer bless the Lord. The Sabbath is drawing to its end. But we love to think, we delight to believe, that the dwellings of Thy people are still dear to Thee. We are not only bound individually to adore Thee for this day, but as a family also. Has it not been to us a source of sweetest pleasure that we could lift up our hands together in Thy courts? that we still heard well-known voices? that among the many we still were one? Did we not then dedicate ourselves as a household to the Great Master of the House? Do we not now confirm the vow? O gather our first-fruits, and bind our ripest sheaves! May the root be holy, and so too the branches! Let our Home be a Sanctuary! Let a Church be in our House! And each day prove, so purely and so cheerfully kept, as a Solemn Feast-day!

Let us ponder, O Thou our Judge, how dreadful it would be to perish after such privileges as Thou hast bestowed upon us. Thou, blessed

Jesus, hast come preaching peace. Thou hast been set forth crucified among us. Thou hast taught in our streets. We have not needed to bring Thee down from above, nor to bring Thee up from the dead. Thou art with us even unto the end of the world. Thou still walkest in the midst of the candlesticks. What it must be for us to hear from Thee the discarding sentence, I never knew you! Depart from me ye cursed! Ah, what shall our end be, if we obey not the gospel of God? What shall we do in the day of visitation? Our flesh trembleth for fear of Thy judgments! Mercy! Mercy! The Lord grant that we may find mercy of the Lord in that day!

Bless the labours of the Christian Missionary wherever found, and by whomsoever invested. Far from his native land, yet often thinking of its fair scenes and holy mercies, he has this day gathered together his few converts, and divided among them their portion. May all who bear that beloved name be encouraged in their work, see an impression made on the heathen population around them, rejoice over a people made ready for Thee, and be made glad by the solemn and decided act of thousands, saying, —What have we to do any more with idols? Their drink-offerings of blood will we not offer, nor take up their names into our lips!

We now shall quickly separate to take our rest. Smile upon us and let Thy favour lighten our spirits. May our sleep be calm, and our vision of the night, if conscious of it, be pure and serene. Beneath Thy wing we must dwell in fear. So let us sleep as did Thine ancient servants whom Thou didst watch in their slumbers, and visit in their thoughts,—whose hardest pillow Thou didst render soft and pleasant to them,—whose resting-place was a Bethel and whose scene of wakeful meditation was a Peniel, —sinking to repose and dreaming of angels,—or keeping vigil to wrestle with the Angel of the Covenant, and to have power with God.

In the name of the One Mediator we declare our need, and would offer our gratitude. And to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, we would present the Hosannah of Time and Eternity. Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty! Such is Thy great and dreadful Name! Such is the ever-resounding acclamation of Thy praise! For Thou art Holy! The heavens are not clean

in Thy sight! In the light of Thine essential purity there is no darkness at all! Where then can sinners hide themselves? How meet, or how escape, Thine eye? How can we stand before Thine indignation, and abide the fierceness of Thine anger? O we may appear on earth before Thee as do the redeemed in heaven. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb,—*therefore* are they before the Throne! They are clothed in the memorials and ensigns of the Atonement. So may we be seen before Thee, and until we put on that celestial defence and ornament, may the Saviour spread—between us and the Infinite Righteousness—His own vesture dipped in blood!

We thank Thee that we can thus enjoy the communion of saints. We can have fellowship with those who have gone before us into heaven. We can come unto the spirits of just men made perfect. We bend around the one Throne. Only a little higher up we seem to recognize them. We are, in part, engaged the same. We would be saved even as they! And when this family is with the dead, when strangers shall fill this house, when this place shall know us no more,—may our spirits have reached that happy sphere, have joined that triumphant throng, and have found more of our

friends and have renewed more of our friendships, than we have left behind.

We adore Thee for the privileges of the past day. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, Thou didst shine. Lovely is that Temple in which every one speaketh of Thy glory. Thy Cloud was in the Holy Place. We remembered Thy loving-kindness. We saw Thy goings. It was good to be there. We drank of the well of salvation, and the fountain of life. Truths were stated, and urged, beyond all human sagacity to discover: which were deposited in no other well known premises, but were evolved at once from Thy own mind and will. Never let us think trite, nor hold indifferently, these great wondrous principles,—into which angels desire to look,—which awaken heaven into melody and emblazon eternity with glory,—and which only could be revealed to us by Thy Spirit!

Another night has brought with it rest and vigour,—for these mercies we now kneel down to bless Thee. For all the prospective comforts of the day, we would express our obligations. Yet let us never speak of any thing as though it were our own. Let us never for a moment feel as though independent of Thee. If confidently we may expect our food,—if reasonably we may anticipate our health,—such assumption is only founded upon Thy goodness. In a mo-

ment appetite may sicken, every susceptibility of comfort may be destroyed, life may cease. Then whose shall be those things to which we so fondly cling? What part shall we have in the things which are done under the sun? May these reflections sweeten our mercies by maintaining our sense of dependence and our emotion of gratitude: and nevertheless raise us to their Donor who cannot make us happy by His richest supplies, save that he superadds Himself. Continue Thy loving-kindness unto us, and suffer us not to detach it from Thee as an idol to set up against Thee or instead of Thee, a monument of ingratitude, an image of jealousy. May our heart and our flesh, not yet satisfied with the larger and larger overflow of Thy bounty, cry out for the living God!

We desire to feel a sense of insecurity, a need of precaution, in beginning the secular business of another week. We would seem as walking on the edge of a precipice. We have, from former experience, learnt how fugitive are our best impressions. We also know how quick may be the transitions from feelings which we should cherish to those we ought to shun. Let the seed sink deep, and take root. Let Thy word dwell in us very richly. May the world look on us as not of it. Let our temper and practical morality be seen by its children as

wholly different from theirs. While we discern their aims and tastes, let ours be judged of no man. Yet may the hidden life prompt the external acts consistent with it. May we be known and read of all men. May none have cause to denounce our religion as vain.

Forbid, O Lord, that any of our number should continue strangers to Thy grace. We cannot bear to think of an eternal parting. Our heart cannot endure the thought that some of us should dwell for ever in heaven, and some be cast into hell. Thou hast made our natural affection to each other necessary, most pleasant, most useful: shall it be that it must be racked by the eternal ruin of any of those we so fondly love? Shall such things happen to us?

Our prayer shall come into Thy temple, where is the Lamp ordained for Thine Anointed, and the Altar of Incense! Jesus! Ask the Father for us!

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

Thou art the Preserver of men, and the Keeper of Israel! From what creature is thine atten-

tion turned, and Thy care withholden? What worm is disdained by Thee? What insect dost Thou despise? In the universal instincts of the inferior portion of animated existence, how wonderfully dost Thou reveal Thy purpose to make all happy who are capable of happiness! But Thou hast set man over all these works of Thy hand. Thou hast set Thy heart upon him, and dost magnify him. Thou hast sent Thy Son to take our nature, and He shall wear it for ever. Thou hast not thus advanced the nature of angels. Those holy beings Thou dost command to minister to them who are heirs of salvation. For we are reminded that there is a peculiar favour which Thou bearest to Thy people: that a Providence, directly exercised by Jesus, the Head of all principality and power, encompasses them: that all things work together for their good: and that the Lord knoweth them who are His! Give us, therefore, not Thy general regard but Thy special blessing; and with a Sovereign's clemency, O blend the Father's smile! May we now feel the deep conviction that through the Messiah, who was not cut off for himself, there is only approach unto Thy footstool. It became Thee, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the Captain of their Salvation perfect through sufferings. And shall we not respect,

shall we endeavour to invalidate, Thy Plan of honourable mercy? Oh in His name may we trust! In His righteousness may we be exalted! By His blood purge our conscience from dead works! Receive us nigh unto Thee! And instead of a cold assent, may we delight in this method of saving sinners as most excellent and glorious, seeking to the cross as our ensign, and making it our loudest boast! Never let us offer apology for it, never extenuate a characteristic of it, never abate a circumstance of its blessed sacrifice, and always remember that its efficacy is frustrated when its offence has ceased! May it now be presented by the Priest on His Throne for us availably and personally! May our every name be reflected from His breastplate! May the sprinkling of His blood drop on every heart!

We would humbly implore the Divine influence. Thou hast not, O God, forsaken the earth. Still Thou dost visit us, and touch our hearts. We ask of Thee that a saving power may be effectual in us. Not less than Thy might in creating all things is the energy we seek of Thee. Create us unto good works. Quicken us together with Christ. Work within us to will and to do. Write Thy law in our hidden part. Thine Omnipotence only can secure our obedience by achieving our conversion. Thine Omnipotence only can achieve our conver-

sion by actuating our will. Thine Omnipotence only can reach that secret of our being, and impress upon its native bent and evil perversity,—a new, an enlightened, a holy determination!

We must again make mention of Thy loving-kindnesses. We are once more gathered to bless Thee for our daily load of benefits. We will sing unto Thee a new song. On our stone of help we engrave a further writing of thankfulness. Shall we be mute when Thy goodness receives an involuntary tribute from the material world, and its irrational tribes? How often have the little hills rejoiced around us,—how often have the pastures, covered over with corn, shouted for joy and also sang,—how often has a grateful mirth resounded from field to grove,—how often has even the reptile crawled forth to share Thy goodness! Help us to minister to Thee in this great Temple for them,—to articulate their dumb signs,—to interpret their undefined emotions,—and to collect into the censer of our spiritual offering and reasonable service, every wreath of incense exhaled around us!

Look down upon us in reference and in compassion to all our real interests. Give us health of body and of mind. Feed us with food convenient for us. Let Thy goodness endure continually. Be ever mindful of us and ours. Above all things may we have fervent charity

one to another. Let harmony regulate our whole relationship, and bless our whole life. May our steps be ordered by Thee. To Thee may we defer all our plans and enterprises. May we acknowledge Thee in all our ways. Be it our ambition to pitch our tent, or to pursue our journey, just as Thy pleasure shall be intimated to us. Send Thy angel before us. Ride in the heavens for our help. Be our sun and our shield. Then shall it be well with us. Nothing shall harm, nor even surprise. We shall not be afraid with any amazement,—the young lion and the dragon we shall trample underfoot,—and firm shall we rest, or unweariedly shall we travel, being shod with that preparedness for all events, and all possibilities, which is imparted by the gospel of peace.

For any irreligious members or connections of this family we would intercede. O Lord, forbid that these should perish. Thou hast visited us with Thy gospel, and we trust Thou hast chosen us from the world. In proportion to the degree with which we estimate this privilege, we mourn for those who are insensible to it. Let no one any longer continue to be a grief of heart unto us. Save us from strange children. Suffer not a profane person to be found among us, so infatuated, so lost, as to sell his birthright! May the rainbow of the covenant span us all!

Stir us to greater activity in caring for the spiritual condition of this neighbourhood. How many are negligent of the great salvation! By how few, in comparison of those who are not like-minded, is the care of the soul indulged! Revive true religion among us. Let Christian ministers be encouraged and honoured with a larger success. Let Christian churches be the abodes of a more devoted piety and of a more amiable concord. Let Christian institutions acquire a stricter spirituality and a more generous expansion. Let them who honour Thee be honoured. Turn unto us a pure language. Let all iniquity stop its mouth.

We would pray for the world. Our hearts would embrace all mankind. May we ever remember that we are debtors to them, and that it is our obligation to hold forth to them the word of eternal life. We invoke Thy choicest gifts upon the Missionaries of Christ. Spare their valuable life amidst inhospitable climates. Uphold their reputation unblemished in despite of surrounding temptations. Let none gain an advantage over them. May they know that in converting the sinner from the error of his way, they save a soul from death; and in this knowledge let there consist their aim, their incentive, and their reward!

Grant us peaceful slumber through this

night. May we see another morrow. May we arise from our bed to adore and serve Thee. May all our power of body and of mind be recruited but for holiness and usefulness. May whatever has been sinful in this day's conduct, be shunned by us in the next we are favoured to enjoy. May each day mark our improvement and verify our repentance.

We beseech Thee for pardon and sanctification,—for all the things which accompany them,—for all the meaner things of which, while in the body, we have need,—in the name of Jesus, the One Mediator, who not without an oath was made Priest, and is therefore appointed for ever over the House of God. Thou, Jehovah! hast sworn, and wilt not repent it! We believe! We rely on Him whom Thou hearest always, and who asks Thee for us! And to the God of the Covenant, to God in Trinity, we offer our worship now, and pledge it for ever! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Thou, O Lord, art invisible! We perceive Thee not! No sense of ours can inform our minds of Thy Being! For Thou art a Spirit! Thou

art from everlasting! No man hath seen Thee at any time! No manner of similitude has been showed unto us! Thou dwellest in the light which is full of glory, to which no creature-step may approach, on which no creature-eye can gaze! Yet do we now believe that Thou art, and that Thou art the rewarder of them who diligently seek Thee. Thou art made known to us by Thy works, attesting Thine eternal Power and Godhead. But Thou hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy Name. Yet in Thy blessed Book there are the bright shinings of Thy love to fallen man. There art Thou exhibited as God in Christ reconciling the world unto Thyself. He who was in Thy bosom, the Only Begotten of the Father, hath declared Thee! In seeing Him, we see Thee also! He is the image of the Invisible God!

We thank Thee that we may esteem Thee with love, and rest on Thee with confidence. Thou art not a terror to us, but if we believe in Jesus, Thou art our God! We joy in Thee through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom now we have received the atonement. This is the only argument with which we can fill our mouth, and its repetitions are the only words which we can bring with us. We would seek nothing more satisfactory, nothing more assuring, nothing more precious, than this. It is a good, a blessed

hope. Thou art well pleased with it. Thou hast set it forth as the all-sufficient propitiation. Thou canst exercise grace and satisfy justice. Thou dost by the faith of the sinner in this blood clothe him with humility, silence him with shame, transform him with contrition, and overwhelm him with rapture. By this may we now enjoy free and bold access!

Honoured be Thy goodness for the mercy which this morning discloses to us. Its stream never fails us. What weeping eyes have scarcely closed during the night, or if shut, in momentary forgetfulness, opened quickly again to weep! What heavy hearts, if for a little instant they ceased to feel their load, are now alive to all their misery! The captive awakes at this light to renew his captivity. The widow and the orphan are recalled by it to their bereavements. The children of the needy suffer once more their wants. To tens of thousands it is a visitation of despair. The light which is sown to them is as darkness and the shadow of death. No joy cometh in their morning. To us it returns as the harbinger of hope and peace. We worship the God of our salvation. We await, in entire dependence upon Thee, a course of duties made pleasant by Thy smile, and of enjoyments made holy by Thine influence. So may our day pass along, full of favour and of the blessing of the

Lord. May it furnish happy points for the lingerings of memory and for the vows of praise. And should it be our last, may it be appropriate and solemn and triumphant as that which is closest joined to eternity.

Let us, O Thou who triest the heart, be ever thankful that Thou hast made us creatures of obligation and responsibility, that we are capable of conceiving and cherishing the motives of moral agents, and that we are not like the brute-beasts which must be goaded by force, or held in by bit and bridle. May we account this our true freedom. May we feel that we walk at liberty in keeping Thy precepts. Let us never associate with duty and accountableness any sense of restraint and grievance. Ah, what dost Thou require but our good? What dost Thou prohibit but our injury? What limitation dost Thou assign to our desires but the harm they would inflict? What exercise of our faculties dost Thou command but their most pleasant consciousness, and their most dignified use? May we continue in this law of liberty, and, loving Thee, keep Thy commandments!

Dispose and empower us to avail ourselves of every occasion of proving benevolence to our fellow-creatures. To do good and communicate, let us never forget. May we testify that our religion is pure and undefiled, by visiting the

widow and the fatherless in their affliction. May we especially care for the spiritual necessities of mankind. May we save some. May we take interest in every plan to teach all nations and devote them to the Triune Deity. May we follow all Christian ministers and missionaries with our sympathies and our prayers. May their line go into all the world, and their words unto the ends of the earth.

And let it not be our reproach that we commiserate the lost estate of all but theirs, who are bound to us by ties of nature and acquaintance. To these we are a wonder, that we cannot take part in their pursuits and pleasures. And so were once Thy people a wonder to ourselves. Thy Spirit has made the difference, opening our eyes and creating all things new. O may the same power descend on them. May they see all things after another manner, choose the good part which shall not be taken from them, cast in their lot with the righteous, go with them who can do them good; so shall we meet in the unity of heaven who were one below.

Grant that this day we be not overtaken by a fault, nor surprised by a temptation. May we give heed unto our ways. In our intercourse, should that be necessary, with wicked men, may our example shine, and our piety, unostentatious,

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and unobtrusive, tell upon their feelings by its simple grace. In worldly transactions may we be unspotted by the world. Let us cause none to grieve, and none to offend, and none to fall. May our words and tempers and deeds be all inspired by love.

We now fall into the hands of the Living God, not, we trust, as His enemies, but as His forgiven children. Keep us and guide us and feed us as Thine. Nor suffer us to forget that this is but another day of the remaining few of our pilgrimage, and that our days are a shadow rapidly declining.

That we have an Intercessor ever presenting His own one Offering, for he offered up Himself, is our one hope that praises so poor as these shall be accepted, and that petitioners so unworthy shall be heard. And now to the Ancient of Days, to the Word who was in the beginning with God, to the Spirit who searcheth the deep things of God, we ascribe eternal adorations! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

INFINITE and Everlasting God! Who upholdest all things by the word of Thy power! By whom all things consist! Who bringest forth the hosts of heaven! Who preservest man and beast! Universal yet undivided is Thy care. The vast and dizzy motions of the worlds above us,—the growth of every weed,—the wonderful glory and flight of angels,—the instinct of every worm,—Thou dost alike originate, direct, and ordain. Thine eyes are in every place. The universe is in the hollow of Thy hand. Thou faintest not, neither art weary.

Helped, fed, and blessed by Thee, we would now acknowledge our obligation to Thy superintendence and watchfulness. Another day has furnished its register of Thy bounty. Thou hast quickened each pulse. Thou hast instilled each breath. Thou hast not supplied us with a negligent profusion, as with crumbs falling from Thy table: Thou hast spread our table, and been unto us as One that serveth. Thou hast kept our souls from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from falling!

Receive now our devout homage. Our lips, our hearts, praise Thee. It is of Thee, if we cherish gratitude and utter thanksgiving. It is

another mercy that Thou wilt accept our love. And surely we should love Thee for Thyself. Shall we be drawn to admire the wisdom, and to revere the worth, and to approve the benevolence, of our fellow-creatures,—and shall we not make our boast of Thee, shall we not delight ourselves in Thee, with whom these attributes subsist in their first source and in absolute perfection? O ever adored be Thy Name! Blessed be God!

We would desire to look up to Him whom Thou hast highly exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour. We approach Thee through His mediation only. May we come into His righteousness. Impress upon our hearts the solemn necessity that there was that He should find a ransom. We believe that it behoved Him to suffer. But it was only indispensable because Thou hadst determined to save sinners. That determination was not indispensable. Thou mightst have eased Thyself of Thine adversaries. Thou couldst have found a way for Thine anger. May we ever account The Atoning Blood as the most peculiar and holy Thing. Now may we find in it expiation, life, and peace.

Thy Spirit alone can impart to us gracious dispositions. From Him may our fruit be found. May He work within us all the pleasure of Thy

goodness, and the work of faith with power. May we be ever led by Him,—hear His testimony,—receive His anointing,—walk in His comfort,—expatiate in His earnest,—and be avouched by His seal!

It may be,—and how probable it is,—that our hearts have this day erred from Thy ways, that they have too much forgotten Thee, that they have been foolish and wandering, that they have been inconsiderately engrossed in the things of this world, that vanities have found a harbour in them, that they have been untoward and perverse. O may we know and mourn the plague of our hearts. May they be recovered by Thy grace. Give us not up! Say not, Ye are not my people, and I will not be your God! Bring us back. Heal our backslidings. Restore our souls. Seek Thy servants.

Sanctify to us our trials as well as our comforts. When losses, pains, bereavements, and the wickedness of others, afflict us, let us enter the refuge in which Thy children hide. May we show how Christians can endure. Far from us be a disposition of resistance. May we feel that no affliction is joyous but grievous. May we feel it to be an affliction. But permit us not to sorrow as they who have no hope. May we be of good courage. Let patience have its perfect work. May we consider the end of the

Lord. And while the bright spectacle of those who have come out of great tribulation breaks upon us from heaven, let our face shine, and every tear vanish from our eyes.

Grant to us a happy experience of Thy grace. May we know that we are of God. Let no painful doubts rest upon our state. May it be well with us in Thy sight. May we have the evidence of things not yet seen. Because Thy love is shed abroad in our heart, may our hope never make us to be ashamed. Cause our life to pass in constant watchfulness and activity, —in habits of piety, in plans of usefulness,— looking for the mercy of the Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life,—perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord,—and thus need we not walk in darkness, nor judge ourselves cast out from Thy presence.

Smile upon us as a Family. We have built our altar, and have called it by Thy name. Continue to be worshipped, and to be worshipped alone, upon it. We and our house would serve the Lord. We would command our children and our household after us, that they may keep the way of the Lord, and do justice and judgment.

How sadly true is it that all whom we love are not known of Thee. We were once like them, walking after the course of this world,

carelessly pursuing the broad road, and as unconcernedly approaching the wide gate which leadeth to destruction. Thy grace interposed, or we had been found with the many who go in thereat. Save from that ruin those in whom we take natural interest, and to whom we are relatively bound. Sever us not from the righteous! Sever not these objects of our devout supplication from us! May we speak of them as ours through eternity!

Think upon all the inhabitants of the world. Send Thy word and heal the nations. May imposture and idolatry be crushed. Let great Babylon come up in remembrance before Thee. Hurl the Man of Sin, That Wicked, from the Temple which he usurps and profanes. May Apostles, and Prophets, and all Saints, rejoice over that ruin.

Bless all pastors and evangelists at home and abroad. May they speak things that become sound doctrine. May Thy servant who is set over us in the Lord be greatly prospered: may his hands be strong and his labours be very successful. May our neighbours be induced to hear all the words of this life; and they who dwell afar not only see the tokens of Thy power, but receive the glad tidings of Thy redeeming love.

We thank Thee that we can present before

this altar our bodies and our souls as living sacrifices: their blood might have been required, and mingled in the offering of Eternal Justice. May they be holy and acceptable to Thee through Christ Jesus. Give them the rest which the night invites, and their exhausted powers need. May their living oblation, in the morning, be renewed!

The only name of Jesus (how happy that none can compete with it!) we now plead, that we may be accepted and sanctified; and that all our petitions may find grace with Thee, and enter into Thine ear, Lord of Sabaoth!

And to the Incomprehensible Jehovah,—Incomprehensible in His love as in His essence,—Father, Son, and Spirit, we will give praise for ever! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THE eyes which Thou hast once more awakened and enlightened, O most Merciful Lord, we would turn to Thee! We lift them to the hills from whence cometh our help! Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth! He that keepeth us hath not slum-

bered! All our bones shall say, Who is like unto Thee, O Lord? Our eyes see the forms of love,—our ears listen to the voices of friendship,—our tongues can show forth Thy praise! Fearfully and wonderfully are we made, but Thou preservest the curious mechanism of nerve and vein and every precious sense! How lost were we a little while ago to all the accuracy of memory and all the exercise of reason, but Thou now restorest to us the control of both! Again we exist as creatures of reflection and accountability! Thou hast wrought all these things for us! Thy hand is lifted up, and reverently, gratefully we would see it! We would regard Thy work, and trace all its characteristics of power, skill, and love!

But how may we come before the Lord? How appear in the Presence before which angels veil their faces? How shall we cover ours! They veil them with their wings, but those wings were ever swift to do Thy Will, Thrice Holy Jehovah! They shade Thy brighter glory from their eyes with plumes which were never stained by sin! In vain *we* hide our face with our hands defiled with every crime! Thou hast set our secret sins in the light of Thy countenance! Thou hast searched and known us! We cannot look up! We cannot propitiate Thee with slain beasts and offerings. But Thou art

Propitious in the Atonement of the Cross. It declares and proves Thine Infinite Placability! We urge it not that Thou mayest become favourable to our lost condition,—it is the proof that Thou canst be!—it is the expression that Thou art!—it is the pledge that Thou wilt be! May we look unto Jesus with a more single eye, and rest upon His expiation with a more unreserved dependence!

Help us by Thy good Spirit. Nothing is so frail, so weak, so unstable, that it can express these qualities of our minds. We would not utter this confession without a deep sense of its truth. We pray that we may be fully convinced of it, and be thoroughly humbled by it. We can do nothing. Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Only can the Spirit of Grace sustain our frailty, enforce our weakness, and fix our instability. O Thou the Searcher, and the Sanctifier, the Indwelling God! according to Thy glorious power, strengthen us with all might! So can we do all things, we shall glory in tribulation,—out of weakness we shall become strong,—the worm Jacob shall beat the mountains small as chaff,—and David, already strong, shall be as the angel of the Lord!

How much we owe Thee for the Lively Oracles! These companions of our solitude, these guides of our union, are given to us while

they are unknown to millions. Shall we not bless Thee for the Volume of the Book? Shall we not study it as the imprint of Thy mind and will? May He who inspired it, the Spirit of Truth! direct our studies into it, and our conclusions from it. May He shine upon his own word! May He signify to us his own meaning! May we hide it in our heart! May we meditate in it day and night! May we be clean through it! Sanctify us through by Thy truth,—Thy word is truth!

Little know we, O Lord, what shall this day befall us. We cannot divine what a day shall bring forth. Unexpected trials and mercies have saddened and cheered the evening of days whose mornings did not intimate them. We have been painfully and gratefully surprised at their close. We have adored Thee who created darkness as well as light. Thou didst it! May we leave ourselves in Thy hand! And may the issues of these hours be so holy, so beneficial, so joyous for time and for eternity, that they may neither drag along with heavy tardiness, nor fly away with inconsiderate levity; neither speed on a wanton wing, nor leave after their escape a poisoned recollection.

Be with us, O Blessed Leader and Commander of Thy people, in all our diurnal transactions. There are twelve hours in which men

ought to work. Various are our departments of labour. We are now going forth to it. We pray that a high morality may distinguish us. May we breathe an excellent spirit. May we in all things live honestly. May we speak truth to our neighbour. May we keep ourselves pure. Let our moderation be known unto all men. Let us attend to the things which are of good report. Let us, while acceptable to God, be approved of men.

Thou who hast in every age, and in every dispensation, acknowledged the line and relationship of holy families, disdain us not if newly won to Thy grace,—nor fail us, if our fathers worshipped in this mountain. All ungodly kindred we would remember before Thee. Shall our own flesh perish? Shall the blood which we share with them sink as a blot and stain? Shall we be bound in different bundles when the celestial reapers gather the harvest? Shall the Right hand and the Left,—shall Heaven and Hell,—separate us according to their fearful distances? Cement us by a common experience of religion. May we have like precious faith. Make us perfect in one!

Lord! be gracious to our land. Long has it been sacred to liberty, and sown with the ashes of saints and martyrs. Long has Thy church found here a site and shelter. Thou hast been

its present help. On all its glory Thou hast set a defence. May it still enlarge the place of its tent, and stretch forth the curtains of its habitation. Let it be the joy of the whole earth.

Be gracious to our Monarch and to the whole of the Royal Family. Dispose the judgments of the great, and turn their hearts as rivers of water. May their influence be well directed, and the rich among the people entreat Thy favour. May all kings fall down before Thee, and all nations serve Thee.

For this blest consummation of our faith and love, enforce the Ministry of Thy Gospel. We believe that this is the appointed instrument to raise a fallen world. We would hold by it however the world may contemn and revile it. There is none like this! What hast Thou accomplished by it! It came not out from us, but unto us! From us may it be borne to others! And let our dear Missionaries be encouraged in the Lord their God,—when failing be confirmed, when desponding be exhilarated, when disappointed be victorious!

May we, at evening, return and kneel again in sweet concord around this altar. Then, may we severally and unitedly proclaim Thy bounty, and that Thou performest all things for us. Let no shade of sorrow rest upon us.

Let no bitter care canker any heart. May all be gladness and serenity. So may it be an image and earnest of our last day,—its opportunities fitly spent, and its declining beams, like a setting sun, dawning upon the new world of heaven with the splendour of an everlasting morn!

Through Jesus,—who is necessarily alone in His person, and incomprehensible in His love,—the merciful and faithful High Priest,—the only source of merit and ground of hope,—we offer ourselves, our petitions, our thanksgivings. All glory to the United Three, the Undivided One!—Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

Look down, O Lord, from the Habitation of Thy holiness and glory! The heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee! We are not worthy that Thou shouldst come under our roof! What are we that Thou shouldst magnify us, and set Thy heart upon us! Yet come down to us and heal us: so shall we believe and our whole house!

We would not come before Thee as with the pomp of an embassy, making our conditions and stipulations, agreeing or disagreeing to what portion of Thy grace we will receive, to what extent of obligation we will suffer. We are altogether an unclean thing: who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? We cannot diminish by the smallest amount our debt to Thy justice: we have nothing to pay! It is Thy hand which holds us between heaven and hell! It is of Thy mercies that we are not consumed, because Thy compassions fail not! And shall we barter with Thee, as though it were too humiliating to accept Thine abundance of grace, Thy gift of life? Shall we exclaim, Thou shalt never wash my feet? As there is nothing too gracious for Thee to do, nothing too transcendent for us to need, we would thankfully and humbly leave to Thee the way of our salvation, the method of our redemption: Lord not my feet only; but also my hands and my head!

We beseech Thee, by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, to restore our souls to that holy image in which we were created. We deplore the existence and workings of a depraved nature. We are sinful men, O Lord. Alas that we should ever know the conflicts between duty and inclination! That we should ever struggle

against the sense of right and good! That we should ever tamper with that which we know to be an evil thing and bitter! That ever we should recede to a world we have proved so vain! Hence is it that the law is not to us a perfect law of liberty, because the motions of sin are still in our members, and we do not wholly consent unto it. O bring up our minds and our affections to a perfect approval of that standard! Let us delight in it after the inner man! May we walk at liberty, because we seek Thy precepts! Let us not be without law, but under the law to Christ! So may we speak, and so do, as they who shall be judged by the law of liberty!

Bring, O Lord, more vividly within our consciousness the self-witnessing light and truth of the Gospel as Thy power unto our salvation. Let it have hold and impression upon us as a voice speaking from heaven. May it convince and subdue. Be our appeal always to it, and our joy always in it. Let its sweet savour pervade our spirit, and our conversation be such as becometh it. May it be the light to direct us, and the staff of our support. Let it be all our salvation and all our desire.

One day telleth unto another of Thy Loving-kindness and Tender Mercy. We would, O most blessed Lord, regard ourselves as the children

of Thy Providence. We cannot, in our dimmest memory of our former lives, think of a scene or a moment in which Thou didst desert us. We cried unto the Lord, and He heard us. We looked unto Him, and our faces were lightened. Thou hast been a refuge for us, a strong-hold in the day of trouble. Thou hast fed us since our first hunger, Thou hast clothed us since we first came naked from our mother's womb. This day records Thy longsuffering and bounty. We have been Thy care. Through its every instant we were circled by Thy protection and love. And closing this day in this act of domestic worship, let us take no anxious thought of to-morrow. Thou, who wilt send forth its sun rejoicing in the circuit of the heavens, art still our God! Thou wilt not fail! We shall not want!

Yet may it be our earnest desire that the coming day should be more diligently consecrated to the following of holiness and the doing of good. While the wicked speak of their to-morrow that it shall be as has been this their day and much more abundant, we pray that if we enter once more on life, it may be with an increasedly cautious spirit and self-denying endeavour. O to live, our God, to Thee as we have never hitherto done! To be Thine in a stricter sense than ever! We thus indeed ask

our own happiness, and would bless ourselves in the earth!

Grant that we may consider one another, and look diligently lest any one of us should fail of Thy grace. We are highly favoured, we are under heavy responsibility, severe must be our account! Let not the children of our vows, the children of our prayers, fall from our profession! Let them not be carried away into the captivity of earth and hell! May Thy mark be on them! Put Thy Spirit within them! Number them with such as those of whom is the Kingdom of Heaven!

Pity the dwellings of the wicked. How are their sorrows multiplied who hasten after another God! They have no Guide to acknowledge in all their ways. They have no Hope to solace them in all their troubles. They die in the bitterness of their soul. O Lord! call them by Thy name! Let salvation come, this day, unto their house! Be pleased to remember Thy own cause in the world. Heal the breaches of Zion, and gather the outcasts of Jerusalem. Let the heart of the Jew turn to Thee, and its veil be taken away. May the ends of the earth consider. And suffer not our beloved Missionaries to bewail their ill success. We adore and bless Thee for the work which Thou art working in our day by their agency. Be that

work greatly extended and multiplied! So shall their hearts be lifted up in Thy ways, and they shall triumph with Christ.

We would now cast ourselves, O our Father, on Thy preserving mercy. Close our eyelids, and let no weight of guilt and corroding solicitude sit upon them. Let every conscious thought be pure, and every sleepless moment be spent with thee. May we think of our being as still perpetuated in its great ends, notwithstanding the slumber which steals over us,—may the watches of the night mark our continued journeying towards heaven! May we lie down and not be afraid, and our sleep be sweet!

God over all! Our prayer shall come into the Temple of Thy Beloved, His Body, His Atonement, His Intercession! And to the Father, to the Son, to the Spirit be glory everlasting! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

Thou art our God, and we will exalt Thee! None can share Thy throne, or divide Thy sway! Thou dost as it pleaseth Thee in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of

earth! Thou governest all things, visible and invisible! Thy works are intended to instruct, and are full of instruction! They tell Thy contrivance, Thy power, Thy love, Thine immensity! They are spread out, as a Volume, in which we may read of Thee! But it is not in its leaves that we can learn how Thou dost pardon sin, and how accept the transgressor by not imputing his trespasses unto him. But Thou hast added to it, the Volume of Thy grace. These are the pages in which Thou art revealed as sinners, made conscious of their guilt and danger, love to find Thee,—Holy in sanctifying the unholy, Just in accepting the unjust! Thou hast published the method of reconciliation, the scheme of mercy, by which Thou dost bind Thyself. Thou wilt not deny Thyself. Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Thou dost not treat any sin as too heavy to forgive, any sinner as too vile to accept,—Thou wilt pardon iniquity, transgression, and sin, Thou wilt justify the ungodly! Thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, and Thy truth endureth to all generations.

Pleading that great Atonement before Thee in which Thou hast satisfied all Thy claims of law and justice,—hast removed all dishonourable suspicion and misrepresentation from Thy

character and government,—hast declared Thy righteousness in the remission of sins,—our prayer is that we may have redemption in this blood, that we may receive this atonement into our hearts, that its virtue may be sprinkled on our conscience by the finger of the Great High Priest; and that the hyssop of our faith and repentance, dipt in the sacrificial vessel, may apply to us all its life, and peace, and joy.

Blessed be Thy name for the comfort and health and refreshment which return to us with this morning light. Startling dreams have been to many precursors of many dreadful realities. Thousands awaken to penury and, from long habit, to a miserable necessity of crime. They are held by the cords of iniquity. Countless victims have looked forth on this dawn, and felt it a pang that there had broken on them another day. They desired to die, but death has fled from them. We hail the light, and welcome the day, and rejoice in the continuance of our being. Thou givest the blessings, and the capacity, no less a blessing, to enjoy them!

Surely we should be a holy and devoted family. We can attend Thy Sanctuary on the Holy day, and other intermediate seasons. We are not confined to public ordinances, but have our Bible and Bethel within ourselves. We can exclude the world. With each other, and alone,

we can supplicate Thee. There are six days on which we may come unto Thee and be healed, and not only on the Sabbath-day. And should not our improvement of these privileges be somewhat commensurate? Let religion be our uniting principle. Let it pervade each conversation, each temper, each amusement. May we always be in character as a Christian household,—ready and well-ordered as though He, who often sojourned at Bethany, might suddenly enter our doorstead, and beheld with an approving smile our employment and even our recreation! Before death shall divide us, Thy Providence may disperse us. We may be scattered abroad. But Oh Thou, who hast so greatly favoured us in our union,—Thou Jacob's guide, Thou Joseph's deliverer,—abandon us not in our separation. Some dear youth may then be conducted where is no domestic economy,—no morning, evening, prayer. He may find himself surrounded with the careless and the profane. Perhaps his lot may be cast in foreign countries where the day of sacred rest is unknown, and the amiable tabernacles of Divine worship were never reared. Keep that tempted stranger then. May the Lord take him up. Let him not make himself vile as the heathen who are not called by Thy name. However unforeseen, and at present improbable, our future changes and circumstances, be our guide

and guardian. Let us not fall from Thee. Let not one assume the seat of the scorner. Let not one make shipwreck of faith and of good conscience. Let not the eye of parent, master, friend, look round in vain for one whom he had hoped to behold in safety and in bliss. May not one breach be made in our number! May not one be driven from our outstretched embrace in his wickedness and his despair! May not one suffer the banishment from all love of God and man in that dreadful sentence of the Judge, Depart!

We pray for the conversion of our relatives and acquaintances. May they be given us. May they have serious thought and evince a firm decision. May they struggle to be free, and be free indeed. Let them go forth without the gate of worldly association and influence, following Him who suffered without the gate, and bearing his reproach. This is what we have often felt that some of them only wanted. They are not far from the kingdom of God, but this one thing they lack. Their hearts are not Thine. O how we long for the blest evidence that they are added to the Lord! How complete will be each tie of nature when woven with the bonds of grace! And if there be of our kindred any one who is openly and daringly irreligious, may we, though we have been tempted to say of his

soul that there was no hope for it,—now rejoice over it as an unexpected prey!

We cast ourselves for this day upon Thy Care. Grant that we fall into no sin. Let not our enemy triumph over us. Forbid that we should trust in our own hearts. In duty, in sorrow, in conflict,—may our expectation be from Thee, nor our trust in Thee be shaken.

Look down upon all the inhabitants of the earth. Wherefore, we often unbelievingly complain, hast Thou made all men in vain! Upon what toys are they intent? By what follies are they spell-bound? Dissolve the horrid enchantment,—make the diviners mad.—May the nations show themselves men,—and the truth of God, enlightening the reason of man, shine as the true light in which there is life, the light which enlighteneth every man who cometh into the world!

How can we be heard but for Thy sake,—O Jesus! sweating great drops of blood in the garden, and pouring Thy heart-stream upon the cross! Hence is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel!

And to the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sanctifier, be universal adoration! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

SINCE the first Evening which closed on new-made man, until this which has now settled upon us his far descendants,—O Lord, how unwearied have been Thine exercises of goodness and forbearance! Ere the first evening that followed his apostacy, Thou hadst given the Promise of Redemption; and from the cool of that fatal day even until now, there have been heard voices ascending to Thee, ever gathering and ever multiplying,—voices pleading in prayer,—voices swelling in thanksgiving,—voices with which we would now blend our own, at this downward period, from this distant place! And as the only hope of original man arose from the Sacrifice of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, nothing but the same Oblation directs our eye, and encourages our confidence! A father ready to perish was our father,—howbeit he obtained mercy,—and this was written for the generation to come, and we who are the people that were to be created now praise the Lord!

Another term of care and labour has revolved, and we return to our home. We retreat into our rest. Happy in mutual love,—here dispossessing ourselves as far as may be of out-

ward anxiety,—we commune with each other, and would have fellowship with Thee, before we seek our natural repose. We come to throw ourselves beneath the shadow of Thy wings!

Our guilt is so heinous, our sins are so numerous, that shouldst Thou call us into judgment with Thee, O Lord, who could stand? What could we say unto Thee? Having offended against Thy law in one point, we are guilty of all. Our iniquities prevail against us. We cast ourselves on Thy Mercy in Christ Jesus. We put our trust in His atonement. Only can His precious blood reach our case, and cleanse us from all sin. In us, that is in our flesh, dwelleth no good thing. Naturally we do always resist the Holy Ghost. Our stubborn hearts continually rebel. Turn Thou us and we shall be turned. From all our idols do Thou cleanse us. Separate between us and our sin. Create within us a clean heart, O God! renew within us a right spirit.

We would desire to think and feel much on the duty of repentance. We fear that we ask for pardon from Thee more earnestly than for contrition. Where is that yielding, that melting, that godly sorrow, which arises not from dread, but from the sense of Thy forgiveness? Where are the self-loathings which a view of sin should raise? Where are the tears which the sight of

the Cross and its Victim should draw from our eyes? While it is given to us on behalf of Christ to believe on his name,—may every deep emotion of regret and shame fill our bosom when we remember Him whom we have pierced! May our repentance be unto life!

Let us be solemnly convinced that these domestic services do not constitute us a praying family. Give to each of us a praying heart. Then shall there be no formality, no dissembling with Thee,—but all shall be of a ready mind, and every heart alike shall throb. Let there be no holding back, no sullen indifference, no secret disaffection, when we professedly agree touching what we ask of Thee, and when Thy praise is on our lips!

We entreat the increase of Jesus! May He be great! May His dominion stretch from shore to shore! Is not all power His? Are not the ends of the world His inheritance? Blessed Saviour, go onward with Thy conquests! The idols fall! The people bow! Nations hail Thine approach! How benignant are Thy triumphs, how gracious are Thy spoils! Widows and orphans bless Thee! Thy victory spreads around it life! Thou addest no sorrow!

Remember Thy people of every name, and in every climate of earth. Thou knowest them who are Thine. Keep Thy hidden ones in

safety. Ordain strength for them. Let their profession be more marked. May Thy Church make herself to be seen and felt. Let her hold forth the word of life. May she keep her strict province, and attain her high destiny, as the Evangelist of the World!

Forget not those of our kindred and acquaintance who are strangers to Thy grace. May our prayer come before Thee, on their account, in an acceptable time. Let them see nothing in our economy to lower their impressions of true religion. May kindly zeal sustain and justify our heart's desire that they may be saved.

And now may we enter the Secret of the Most High! Now may the angel of the Lord encamp round about us! May we sleep in composure of body and of mind,—and may the morning sun awaken us, with every sense and faculty refreshed, and all breathing upward to Thee the morning incense!

We ask the Father in the name of His only-begotten Son. Our eye rests on the Altar of Expiation before it may dare gaze upon the Mercy-Seat! And to the Father, the Word, and the Comforter, be all glory and praise, world without end! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

THOU art our King, O God! The only Potentate, with whom is all Dominion, the Supreme! Who hath resisted Thy will! Who can say unto Thee, What doest Thou? The armies of heaven, the inhabitants of earth, tremble at Thy great and terrible Name. We would stand in awe and sin not! May we sanctify Thee in our heart! May we find grace whereby to serve Thee acceptably, in reverence and godly fear.

The Name of Jesus is our confidence and plea. None other is given under heaven by which we can be saved. None other can allay our guilty distraction, when Thy terrors make us afraid. This gently extracts Thy arrows when they are sharp in us. This is music in our ears. Blessed be Thy name for the revelation of this! We would exalt Thee, if Thou further hast discovered its worth to us. Dear it is to Thee, and we cannot make mention of it in vain. It is the Sign that Thou dost set between us and Thyself. With the great mercies, which are bound up with it, do Thou gather us! Be not wrath any more with us, nor rebuke us! May we look to it as we do to the Bow of the Firmament, accept the Token, and rejoice in the Covenant renewed!

We would honour the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life! We would praise Thy Good Spirit! How precious is His love! Adored be His overshadowing power! Blessed Comforter, how much hast Thou to bear with us! How often do we strive with Thee! Never may we be sensual, not having the Spirit! Never may we be reprobate, because He dwelleth not in us! Never may we be denounced by Christ, because of this destitution, as none of His! We have vexed and rebelled against Thee, Thou Gift of the Father, Thou Promise of the Son! Let us no longer grieve Thee! Withdraw not Thyself from us! Help us now in these exercises with which we commence this day: direct and sustain us in all its ensuing duties!

And canst Thou, O our Father! condescend to our mean affairs? Art Thou pleased to entertain interest in the way which we take? Does Thine eye continually follow us? Is then the sounding of Thy bowels towards us? Dost Thou measure our moments with Thy gifts? O there has been always, there always is, such a proof of Thy Providence in behalf of us,—we have ever been so entirely fostered by it,—we have been so remarkably dealt with it as its pensioners and its children,—that should we not regard, should we not confess, it, the heavens might be astonished, and horribly afraid; and

very desolate! A wonderful and horrible thing would be committed in the land! Save us from this last impiety! Be not this guilt of basest ingratitude heavy on our souls!

As sinners from the womb, as transgressors of Thy law, we lie at the disposal of Thy justice. There is nothing but Thy Mercy in the Atonement by the Cross between us and perdition. Tear from our heart each remaining fibre of self-righteousness. Show us that no prayers, no mortifications, no performances of duty, can effect, in the smallest degree, the question of our liability to punishment. The guilt is contracted. The deed is done. Pardon must be the utterance of Thy Lip alone. Thou only canst deliver from the wrath to come. O may we ever seek it from Thee, knowing that man cannot justify himself with Thee, and that by the deeds of the law no flesh living can be justified!

May we carry into the engagements of this day a heart sprinkled from an evil conscience. Blessed God! how sweet, how easy, it is to obey Thee, when we enjoy this peace within. Labour is rest beneath Thy smile. Thy Love takes hold of all the heart. To walk before Thee unto all well-pleasing is a delight. To know that Thou hast accepted us, is our strongest motive to seek of Thee still to approve us.

In all our doings may we assure ourselves what is Thy will, asking no other reason, wanting no other impulse, than that it is Thine! May faith work by love,—may we repent because there *is* forgiveness,—may we obey because we *are* forgiven!

O Lord! be very merciful unto this fallen world! What misery has sin entailed upon it! Thou canst not be denied, nor Thy truth supplanted, without the natural consequence of untold woe. The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. For want of vision the people perish. Instead of our happy and sanctified relationship, they are without natural affection, hateful and hating one another, murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers. O give them that Gospel which warms and binds together human hearts: which sets the solitary in families: which turns the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers! May the Most High, who is our refuge, become their habitation!

We direct our eyes to Thee, Great Disposer of all events, to keep us throughout the day on which we enter. With Thee are the issues of life. Left to ourselves, what weakness may we not betray! what crime not perpetrate! This may be a day of folly and of fall. Helped by Thee, we may do that which shall be for

ever witnessed in heaven, a work to follow us when we die and to make our memory blessed! O Lord! in Thee have we trusted, let us never be ashamed world without end!

Receive us and our poor service in the Name of Him who is high over all, far above all principality and power,—to Whom alone at any time Thou hast said, Sit Thou at my right hand, Thy throne, O God, is for ever! Whose Merit, pleaded by Himself for us, is the sweet savour of His atoning blood!

Endless glories be to the Father, Son, and Spirit! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

We will love Thee, O Lord, our strength! The Lord is our rock, and our fortress, and our deliverer,—our God, our strength, in whom we will trust; our buckler and the horn of our salvation, and our high tower. Thou art worthy to be praised! Unto Thee, O Lord, do we lift up our soul! Let us not be ashamed! Let us not slide! Be not silent to us! Arise and deliver us! Make speed to save us!

For we come back, at this time of the evening-sacrifice, from this world,—happy to escape our necessary share in it, entreating to be disenchanted from what may be its unsuspected spell. We cannot mix with it without perceiving its vanity,—or, nor perceiving it, without becoming corrupted by it. Poor is the rest it promises, and broken that which it gives. We flee unto Thee to hide us!

We adore Thee for the works of Thy hand, the vast and lovely productions of Thy skill and power. We would seek them out, having pleasure in them. In the most common flower,—the grace of its fashion,—in hill and valley,—in the stream reflecting its side of earth and its canopy of heaven,—we would trace the bounty which disdains not to minister to the gratification of our sense. How much of the First Garden yet mantles the ground, and there is no interdict of any of its trees, but of all may we freely eat! And now that night hides from us the wonderful features and provisions of this lower world, may we consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast ordained!

In contrast with Thine awful greatness, we might have wondered how Thou couldst have suffered our approach to Thee? But how is that wonder deepened, when we call to mind

that we have deeply revolted from Thee, that we have gone away backward, that ours has been a perpetual backsliding, that we have revolted more and more. What way can be open by which we may return? How may we recover Thy forfeited favour? How walk again in the light of Thy countenance?

Rays of blessed light and hope stream upon us from the Cross! Adored be Thy Name for the gift of Thy Son, and for delivering Him for our offences! Herein is love! Thou didst give Him to be a propitiation for us. It pleased Thee to bruise Him and to put Him to grief. Then said He, Lo, I come! He offered up Himself! Great is the mystery of godliness, God was manifest in the flesh. He was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death! This is our sure stone of hope, the rock of our everlasting salvation. We desire no stronger dependence, no more intelligent faith. Our souls close with it; and our hearts, long aching and bleeding, are here at rest. O how sweet it is when we can say,—the Lord our Righteousness,—Jesus our Peace,—Christ our Life,—the Redeemer our our All! With one mind and one voice we glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Put, O Lord! Thy Spirit within us, and cause us to walk in Thy statutes, and to keep

Thy judgments and do them. Save us from all our uncleannesses. May the very God of peace sanctify us wholly. How canst Thou accept a divided heart? How can we dare offer it? We would be entirely Thine, body, soul, and spirit. We would keep back nothing. We cannot make too unreserved, too unconditional, a surrender. And do Thou, Most Merciful God, say to us: Fear not, for I am with you: be not dismayed, for I am Your God. I will strengthen you, yea I will help you, yea I will uphold you with the right hand of my righteousness.

The return of this evening, O our Father, calls upon us to sing of mercy. We have contracted a new debt to Thee. We have proved new acts of Thy care and bounty. The failing of a nerve, the thickening of our blood, heavy vapour, tainted atmosphere, might have destroyed our power to address Thee. We are the living, the living, to praise Thee. And we would hail the morning light as renewing at once the call and the power to praise Thee. Long would we esteem the hours which delay the return of this homage. Awake up, our glory! We ourselves will awake early.

Impress upon us, O Thou who inhabitest eternity, the momentous issues which shall be revealed by our future existence. We would

not be unclothed, but clothed upon by our house which is from heaven. What is before us! The destiny which dispreads! May we be wrought for it, and meetened for it! Be this our great business! Be it the prize of the mark of our high calling! Let death be much in our thoughts, and may our plans be those which it cannot disturb.

Watch over us during these hours of darkness with paternal care. Let ministering spirits shade us with their wings. Thou only makest us to dwell in safety. May we welcome the day-spring of to-morrow, renewed in all our powers; and the voice of praise and prayer ascend to the God of our life!

Unconverted relatives and friends shall have an interest in our supplications. We know not how far prayer was heard for us! Little thinking then of such a care and such a method which others were pursuing for our salvation, it may be that thus Thou wast moved towards us. May our intercessions be heard on behalf of those whom we love! May we cherish a sweet assurance during this time of the evening oblation, that at the beginning of our supplications Thy commandment shall come forth,—Thy sovereign pleasure to convert and save!

O send out Thy light and Thy truth! Raise unto David a Righteous Branch! In His

days may Judah be saved, and Israel dwell safely! Let the people praise Thee, O God! let all the people praise Thee!

We renew our Covenant through Jesus the Surety; and in all our concerns with Thee, we approach through His mediation, rest on His atonement, and would be heard for His intercession! And now to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, be the supreme glory! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

THY Lovingkindness is before our eyes! Thy Name is near! Thou art nigh at hand! We behold, we prove, the Present God! Vain repetitions, and much asking, are not needed to arouse Thy ear and attention! Thou never forgettest, never art unwilling! We would not seek Thee as the heathen clamour to their Vanities! Thou canst hear a Hannah's moving lip and a Nehemiah's praying heart. Still is it pleasant for us with voice, as well as from all that is within us, to praise Thee, and record Thy goodness,—God over all, blessed for ever! Our morning prayer and thanksgiving we will now render in cheerful and united strains.

But Oh! since the moment of our Fall, all approach to Thee has been debarred save the one which Thou didst then open. Thou art in Christ, and art alone accessible by him. His Sacrifice taught hope to our first parents, by which hope we yet draw nigh unto Thee. It was Thy forbearance, waiting for the Propitiation, which then remitted sin: but at this time Thou dost declare Thy righteousness, that God might be just and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus. Our eyes still rest where sinners alone could from the beginning look with confidence and joy. And Thou, who didst turn the heart of the first penitent, or it had never turned,—turn Thou us and we shall be turned, for Thou art the Lord our God. Endue us with power from on high. Awaken in us each devout disposition. May we all engage our hearts to approach Thee.

Lord! This day opens upon us, and we would bethink ourselves of it as a responsible period of life. It is a time, however brief, of serious issues. We may do much to honour and serve Thee,—to help our brethren,—to advance our well-being. And in it we may do much to dishonour Thee and to violate our religious profession. In an unguarded moment we might roll our glory in the dust! Ere another hour had elapsed, with what a retrospect and

a remorse might we be filled! Do no enemies wait for our halting? Shall we meet with no hindrances? May there not arrive most unlooked for events? We cannot pierce it. Thou seest its end from its beginning. Thou knowest what it shall bring forth. Be Thou Lord over us! Jehovah Jireh,—do Thou provide! Jehovah Nissi,—do Thou defend! Jehovah Shammah,—do Thou be with us here and every where.

We would humble ourselves before Thee in some proportion to our depravity. Is not our wretchedness great and our iniquities infinite! Who can comprehend his errors! Who can know the heart? We cannot view ourselves as Thine eye surveys us. Sin cannot appear to us as it must to Thee. But *our* heart condemns us. *We* abhor ourselves. The burden is too heavy for us. What a plenteous redemption, what a great salvation, what an abundance of grace, do we stand in need of, when we sue to find favour in Thy sight!

We pray for each domestic blessing. Confirm to us each domestic tie. May we pass along in the path of life together. Let the fruit of the Spirit abound in us, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Save us from that hatred of truth in any one of our number which would disre-

lish social prayer, which in other times induced children to rise up against their parents and to cause them to be put to death. O let the yoke of family devotedness be felt a delight and a honour by us all.

And yet must Death, sooner or later, break in upon this scene. The feet of strangers will sound at the door to carry us out. We know not who shall survive, and who shall fall. Let every one seek of Thee, O Lord, an habitual preparation. Be it our constant care to be found ready. For the first, and every following removal, let not there be the sorrow in which is no hope. May the uprooted from earth be transplanted into Paradise. May a holy example be placed before us still, set in a heavenly conversation. May the surrender of each one be as a first-fruit and hostage to the skies!

Pity our worldly acquaintance and kin. Open their eyes that they may see the light. Constrain their hearts. And may it come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.

Be in the midst of our Missionaries, as well as of our Pastors. May their piety be exalted and their success ever-increasing. Let it be as when the Ancient Church could exclaim: The watchman of Ephraim was with my God!

Our prayer has no merit, our praise no incense,—but we offer them through the Blood and Priesthood of Him who hath the power of an Endless Life! And to the Tri-Une be ceaseless homage!

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

HEAR our cry, O God! attend unto our prayer. In Thee do we put our trust. Thou art our strong habitation, whereunto we would continually resort! And while many would fright us and say, Flee as a bird to your mountain,—we have in Thee a place of defence, stronger and more guarded than the munitions of rocks. God is our refuge and strength: a very present help in trouble.

To us belongeth shame of face. We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from Thy precepts, and from Thy judgments. But we now set our face unto the Lord our God, to seek by prayer and supplications! And we have a Righteousness in which we may be exalted! We can boast an Atonement which

cleanseth from all sin! Thou hast contrived with all Thy wisdom, and effectuated with all Thy power, the Plan which meets at one point, and at the same instant, all Thy claims, all our wants! We not only trust,—we love,—we extol, —the great Satisfying, Propitiating, Expiatory, Sweet-smelling Sacrifice!

We bless Thee, O our Father, that we may approach Thee in this character. Scarcely can we find a case in which Thy saints under the Old Covenant ever thus addressed Thee! Unto Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob Thou didst appear by the name of God Almighty. To Moses wast Thou more fully known as Jehovah. How diminished were our privileges, if these were Thy dearest names revealed to us. But from that hour when Jesus taught us to look up to His Father and our Father, and bade us call Thee, Our Father who art in heaven,—the Holy Ghost has signified unto us that the way into the Holiest of all is now made manifest,—the vail is rent,—the mercy-seat is discovered,—the God who is on it, the Christ who is at its right-hand, the blood-consecrated passage leading to it, and ourselves mingled with thousands of thousands sueing before it! By the Spirit of Adoption we now cry unto Thee, Abba, Father!

Closing this week, we would now engage in special exercises of devotion. How incum-

bent is the giving of thanks! To have true religion existing in any of our hearts, to be surrounded by the means and institutes of the Gospel, to dwell amidst Christian civilization and beneath Christian law, may well awaken our gratitude! We might have dwelt where Satan's seat is. We might have been brought into bondage. We might have suffered persecution. We might have been buffeted by them who cast off fear. Instead of this fiery trial, these cruel mockings, we bend around the domestic altar in quietness and peace. For Thou hast been a shelter to us, and a strong tower from the enemy. For Thou, O God, hast heard our vows: Thou hast given us the heritage of those that fear Thy name. We will abide in Thy tabernacle for ever: we will trust in the covert of Thy wings.

We would recall the numerous benefits bestowed by Thee during this week. Its days have passed, its nights have fled, in mercy. Small as is its term when compared with the larger sections of our life, how much trouble might have been crowded into it. But Thou hast graciously exempted us from trials which we might have known in all their bitterness. Thou hast confirmed Thy covenant with us for its space. Thou hast been favourable to us, filling us with all good things. And now at its

end, we magnify Thee for Thine ever-vigilant and boundless Care.

Solemn recollections press upon our spirits. There was an end of the week when Thy foes, O Jesus, marvelled if Thou wast already dead, when Thy disciples wrapped Thy Body in linen, and laid It in the sepulchre. What were then the tears of Thy bereaved Church! What weeping endured for that awful night! Ours is not that suspense! We await the morning light with no embalmments! We will not seek the living among the dead! How happy are we that He liveth, and is alive again for evermore! Blessed Jesus, Lord of the Sabbath, we look forward to Thy Day as commemorative that Thou hast been of Death the plagues, of the Grave the destruction!

Our prayer ascends to Thee for the preparation of Thy House. May we prove Thy faithfulness in the congregation of the saints. Early may we seek Thee, to see Thy power and glory so as we have seen them in the sanctuary. May our fellow-worshippers be a stay and comfort to us, and we to them. May a holy flame circulate among us. May we be of one heart and mind. Be the strength and consolation of our beloved Minister and Pastor. May he be clothed with salvation. May he work the work of the Lord. May he save himself and them

who hear him. May he travail in birth for souls. Let it be our delight and practice to encourage his labours, lighten his sorrows, and soothe his cares. Give him his heart's desire for the salvation of his people: may he bear to the heavenly garner many sheaves reaped by him in the harvest of the world.

Pity those who are bound to us by every tie but that of grace. We feel our heavy responsibility for their state. Often would we warn and teach them. But we feel that it is difficult to conduct the course most fitting and best judged. At least it is in our power to pray for them. This we would now do on their behalf. Deliver our darling from the power of the dog. Let not our familiar friend lift up his heel against Thee.

Be with us while the hours of night ensue. —We yield ourselves to Thy protection. Give and watch our repose. Let not injury befall our dwelling, property, or person. Let the morning beam pierce our chamber, and rouse our slumber, to our delight. May our earliest recollection be, This is the day the Lord hath made! Our earliest greeting, The Lord is risen! Our earliest song, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

We worship in the True tabernacle of Christ's Incarnation, the Tabernacle which the Lord hath pitched and not man,—for the Word was made flesh and tabernacled among us,—we trust in His atoning sacrifice! And to the Father, to the Son, to the Spirit, Our God for ever and ever, be praise and honour, full and equal! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

Third Week.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

O Lord! The God of patience, the God of hope, the God of peace, the God of mercy! Thou mightest have refused to pour around us the light of another day. Thou mightest have heaped upon our earth the shadow of death. Thou mightest have spread over it the pall of an eternal night. But Thy sun again rises, the face of Nature is once more revealed, we breathe the freshened atmosphere, we renew the pleasurable consciousness of existence and of our varied powers, we can gaze around us on the countenances of earthly friends and companions, and may still look up to Thee! Nor dost Thou shed upon us only the common diurnal light, nor address to us the ordinary call to life and duty,—Thou givest us another Christian Sabbath which Thou hast set as a sign of Covenant Relationship between Thyself and us! For that peaceful sign we bless Thee,—the Bow in the cloud tells us not of such a tempest averted! or of such a rest ensured!

It is our high privilege to come before Thee as our Heavenly Parent. We have been great rebels. We are all comprehended under sin. But still Thou dost invite us to return. Thou declarest Thyself ready to receive us. Thou hast showed to us how Thou canst. For though Thy grace reigns, justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy Throne, truth and righteousness go before Thy face. We cast ourselves before Thee. We are ashamed, yea even confounded. Thy mercy subdues us. We thought we could not lie any lower, but the sense of Thine Infinite forbearance and pity sinks us lower still. O let us all come before Thee, and find mercy and acceptance! May we individually have Thy life manifested in us! Say to each of us, I am thy salvation.

Never since our first transgression, has man found access, Most Holy Lord, unto Thee but by a Mediator and a Sacrifice. Adored be Thy Name, that ere the day of our first transgression set, these were provided. By the self-same Mediator and Sacrifice would we now approach Thee. We would remember that all men have an equal need of salvation, and that there is but one method of salvation for all. We would embrace it. Thou who didst impute it to Abraham for righteousness, and to all those of a former dispensation who died in faith,—Thou who didst

bestow it on the penitent woman, and the dying thief,—impart it to us as fully as to the best, as freely as to the vilest, of all who, since the transgression entered, have obtained mercy! Take away all our iniquity, and receive us graciously! So will we render unto Thee the offerings of our lips. They shall show forth Thy praise.

Great and marvellous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty! We would seek them out, having pleasure in them. We would remember that Thou didst survey them on the first Sabbath, with holy delight. But Thou dost still work. Glorious are the operations of Thy hands. And none of Thy deeds can be likened unto our Redemption, the achievement of which our Sabbath is the monument and commemoration. Thou dost still apply it, working salvation in the midst of the earth. Let that salvation be near unto us. May our eyes see it. May its work be actually commenced in us. May its cure make happy progress. May it quickly be demonstrated in the eternal cessation from all sin, and the eternal defeat of all enemies. These are Thy mightiest acts!

Endear to us, O King of Zion, all the ordinances of Thy house. Thy public worship claims this day our peculiar care. Thither the tribes go up. In the midst of the church may we sing praise! In the congregations may we bless the

Lord! Help us in all our attempts to magnify Thee. Faint is our strain, and weak our incense. Let our spirit rise with the risen Redeemer! Though we see him not, yet believing in Him, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory! Let us sing the sweet canticle of the heavens! Let us adore the God of our salvation! Bless to the conversion of many, many, souls, the preaching of Christ crucified. Let all Thy ministering servants adhere to this doctrine. By this may they conquer. What hast Thou wrought by it! What proud Pharisaic arrogance hast Thou melted into shame and penitence! What self-righteous pretenders hast Thou brought to renounce their every claim! What hard, stiff, iron-sinewed, necks hast Thou bowed into the suppleness of readiest compliance! What disputers of the world have become like little children! What sensual abusers of all their faculties have learnt to sow to the Spirit! Hearts of stone have become hearts of flesh! The haters of the Lord have submitted themselves! They have preached the faith who laboured to destroy it! The sucking child has played on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child has put his hand on the basilisk's den. The dry bones have lived! Arm of the Lord, awake, awake! as in ancient times, in days of old! Holy Spirit! Let the world see that Thou and the Father have

sent the Son! Diffuse Thy quickening energies! Take of the things of Christ, and explain and apply them to all! So shall the unbelieving and the obdurate see that the truth into which Thou dost lead them, is not barren and unfruitful, is not word only,—but power and life, —Thy Ministration!

We intercede, O Thou who comfortest Thy people, for all who mourn. There may attend Thy courts those who feel but the sorrow of the world. Thy hand is heavy upon them. May they kiss Thy rod. May they turn to Him who wields it. Let tears of contrition, and of joy because their hearts are made whole by grace, follow those of grief. And may they who mourn in Zion, tossed with tempest and not comforted, harassed by fightings without and fears within, compassed with infirmities, in heaviness on account of manifold temptations, their heart desolate, exposed continually to the oppression of the enemy,—now lift up the hands which hang down, be no more sad in countenance, take their harps from the willows, sing aloud in Thy ways, and put to flight their fear and anxiety, "We shall yet praise Him!"

We pray for the world. Make Thy way known on the earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Every where is man found the sinner, every where he is proved to need a

Saviour. May our dear Missionaries lift up the Cross,—to it be the gathering of the people,—from it may there flow the balm which human misery, ignorant of this, has hitherto asked in vain. May the Gospel be preached for a witness in all kingdoms, and may our beloved brethren who have forsaken all to establish it, triumph in that dispensation of the Gospel which has been committed to them, the rule of the measure which reaches to the ends of the world. We bear in affectionate remembrance before Thee our own Pastor. He watches for our souls, he cares for our state;—may we receive him as a prophet, may we honour him as Thy messenger, may we see that he be among us without fear, may we listen to him as though God did by him beseech us and as placed in Christ's stead, may his labour not be in vain in the Lord.

Nor would we neglect and overlook the afflicted. Many whom Thou lovest are sick. Many are debarred the privilege of public ordinances. But they pray toward Thy Temple. Their spirits haunt, like birds which there have found their shelter and protection, Thine altars, O Lord of Hosts, Our King and our God. Turn their heaviness into songs of joy. Let Thy presence shine around their retreats. Be Thou their Present help, and their Exceeding great Reward.

Bless this day all evangelists and pastors,—the Sabbath-school teacher,—the visitor of ignorant and vicious neighbourhoods,—the attendant on the beds of the sick and dying,—and all who abound in the work of the Lord.

When we close this day, may it be with thankfulness, may fruit be found in us, may we be wiser and better, may we be satisfied with the goodness of Thy House, may we long to be planted in it here even as the cedar in Lebanon,—but knowing that the goodliest cedar of that mountain must fall and decay, may we desire to hold in Thy presence and amidst Thy Worship a more permanent station, to be expressed by a figure of more certain stability,—a pillar in Thy temple, to go no more out! For Jesu's sake, may we be heard!

Now to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost be everlasting glory, Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

Thou who inhabitest eternity! Who only hast immortality! Whose infinite duration admits and needs not our changes of season, and periods of

life! Who seest the end from the beginning! At the conclusion of this most blessed day,—so indispensable to help our memory and excite our devotion,—impressing on us our infirmity by refreshing our weariness,—we re-unite in our domestic worship of Thee! Thou knowest our frame, and rememberest that we are dust! And these breaks and sections of our time Thou dost ordain for our good. Thus can we trace the progress of our existence which otherwise would steal away unnoticed; and thus numbering our days we would desire to apply our hearts unto wisdom!

Chiefly, O our Father God! would we record this first day of the week, when Jesus arose from the dead, when the disciples come together, and when Thy gospel is preached. For public services and institutes we bless Thee. For the gifts and virtues of Thy church, be Thou praised! The wings of this morning have flown to the ends of the earth. What healing fell from them! And as the day rolled round, what hearts leapt up to meet it! What songs of joy awakened to greet and follow it! On what innumerable sanctuaries has it beamed! What multitudes has it comforted and rejoiced! There is no sweeter name than Sabbath to denote the rest into which Thy people enter now,—nor to signify that which still remaineth for them!

Many have been Thy gracious acts towards us this day. Our lot might have been cast in some distant region where no temple rises, and Thy day is not observed. If, dwelling there, we had known its sacred value, under what privations would it have returned! No social sound might have gladdened us! No face of Christian man might have cheered us! Nothing to lend animation! Nothing to draw out our hearts! How immeasurable are our obligations to Thee for Thy house, Thy preached Gospel, Thy holy assembly. Help us, O Lord! to improve to our salvation these great privileges, and may the external means only correspond with spiritual blessings! Place us now among Thy children,—number us with Thy chosen,—call us by Thy name!

Chiefly would we pray that the word of the truth of the Gospel may not be of none effect. To us it has come, and it has been addressed, as an immmediate message from Thee to us. Thou requirest our answer. Let it not be refused, nor be delayed. Can we halt between two opinions? Can we prevaricate with Thee? What condescension hast Thou evinced, what tenderness, what pity! Thou hast been heard by us, negociating, "Come now, let us reason together,"—expostulating, "Why will ye die?" —beseeching, "Be ye reconciled to God." And

shall we turn from Thee? Shall we hesitate to close with these overtures? Has not He who wept over Jerusalem bent over us to-day with the same commiseration? Has not He who regarded the prayer of the dying malefactor stood at our side to-day with the same ready and efficacious grace? Allow us not to provoke and resist Thee any longer, overcome these careless unbelieving hearts, may we fall under Thee, every one submit himself, and do Thou bow us down alway!

Direct our minds to earnest research concerning our real state and disposition in Thy sight. Let not a lie be in our right hand. Let not a deceived heart turn us aside. We tremble lest there should be a final, fatal, delusion. We are too prone to take for granted our safety and regeneration. We assume too presumptuously that we are in a relation of favour with Thee, and in an accordance of temper with Thee. Show us Thy way, O Lord! Detect to our view all the artifices of sin. Lay bare our hearts. Unmask our adversaries. Discover the foundations of iniquity even unto the neck. Expose the wiles of the Devil. However fierce the fire of the ordeal, however painful the process, may we understand the truth of our case. Let us not seem to be religious, if we be not truly so. Let not a lying spirit possess us. May we know what is the hope of our calling. May we walk

in the light. And this we pray to be our just conclusion, that we are in Him who is True, that we have passed from death unto life, that we have made sure our prospects for eternity.

Make very successful the Gospel as it has been preached during this day. It is Thy weapon for the conquest of the world. How many nations hast Thou subdued by it to the obedience of the faith! Wherever its net has been now cast, let the draught be great,—wherever the sickle has been put into the harvest, may the sheaves be rich, and be reaped to a hundred fold. May the blind see, and the ears of the deaf be unstopped. Awaken a general concern in the minds of men. Cause their thoughts to fix upon the momentous enquiries of another world. Excite solemn consideration. Let great fear be upon all. Pour out Thy Spirit upon all flesh. May the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God.

Impress, O Lord, most distinctly and profoundly on our hearts the necessity of an immediate and direct influence of Thy Spirit in order to the production of all spiritual good and saving benefit. Let us never go in our own strength, nor vaunt us, saying, We have done it. How short is our arm! How unavailing our enterprize! Gird Thy sword upon Thy thigh, O most Mighty! Ascend the chariot

of salvation! Pull down the strong holds! Pity the outcast Jew, the superstitious Pagan! Fail not, nor be discouraged, O Thou who expectest that all Thine enemies shall become Thy footstool, until Thou hast set judgment in the world and the very isles shall wait for Thy law.

Establish the peace of all nations. Suffer not men to learn war any more. Break the bow, cut the spear in sunder, and burn the chariot in the fire. May the wolf dwell with the lamb, and the leopard lie down with the kid. May the potsherds of the world cease to dash against each other. Be kings taught the love of justice, be the nations blest with an inviolable repose. May the whole earth be at rest and be quiet!

And we would not less fervently pray for the peace of Thy Church. Heal its distractions. Narrow its divisions. May it be one brotherhood. Let it have one spirit and one aim. Let the world believe, in witnessing that the followers of Thy Son are one even as He and Thyself are one!

Poor and sinful are our services, and from those works which are comparatively good, as from those which are merely sinful, we must take refuge in the atonement of Calvary. Nothing can save us but this. We throw ourselves upon its merit and grace.

Our earthly Sabbaths will soon be numbered.

Another is now all but added to the account. Our flesh and our heart faint. Our end will soon be. May the first ray of glory beaming on our departing spirit be soft and welcome as the earliest light of that original Sabbath which broke on earth but reached to heaven!

Bestow upon us gentle sleep. And on the morrow raise us up so serene in spirit, so impressed with religion, so evidently but just descended from the sanctuary, that we may perpetuate the sacred calm of Thy day, and keep a Sabbatic week.

In the name of Jesus, the only medium of acceptance, we dare meet Thine eye, and implore Thine attention. May we be heard for His sake. May we through the Spirit wait for the hope of Righteousness by faith.

To the God who hath given us great consolation, to the Lord who bought us, to the Free Spirit,—The Divinity revealed to us,—be endless glories! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

THINE Hands have made us and fashioned us! Thou hast clothed us with skin and flesh, and

hast fenced us with bones and sinews. Thou hast granted us life and favour, and Thy visitation hath preserved our spirit. We call upon the Lord who is worthy to be praised. Be not Thou far from us, O Lord: O our strength, haste Thee to help us.

By the way of the Atonement we only would approach Thee! Thy Justice of old regarded it and was satisfied. Its Eye is fixed upon it still. It asks not another, it can demand no more. And let us repose all our hope where Thou hast entrusted all Thine honour. May we have a full and rich experience of interest in it,—warranted to say, We have redemption in his blood,—and anticipating the song of heaven, Unto Him who hath loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever!

May we draw nigh unto God. If we be Thy children, this is our privilege. We receive not the spirit of bondage again to fear. Let not our hearts condemn us. Let us not be distracted by the fear which hath torment. May we be made perfect in love. So having boldness to enter into the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus,—having a High Priest over the House of God,—let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith. Be our access sincere and humble, reverent but unfearing,—even as the ransomed

cast their crowns, and the seraphim veil their faces, before Thine Awful Love!

Assist us by Thy good and free Spirit. What hearts are those to which we invite Him! Hearts gross and hard,—and deceitful above all things,—evil hearts of unbelief! Root from them whatever is untoward, perverse, impure, selfish. Give us hearts of flesh. Establish them by grace. With them may we believe unto righteousness: and on their fleshly tables write Thy holy law.

The Sabbath has passed away which we recently enjoyed. A night of rest, for which we bless Thee, has intervened. We no longer hear the proclamation of Thy truth, the beseechings of Thy mercy. But, O Lord, our accountability has not ceased. There may be accumulating against us the greater condemnation, there may be brandishing against us the many stripes. We may have hardened our hearts. We may have multiplied our provocations. Let us deeply think if we may not have all but exhausted Mercy, and sinned away the day of grace. To what a point may we have come! What tremendous wrath may threaten! Break our hearts in repentance. Inspire in them faith. Melt them into yielding love. Save us from that dreadest perdition,—the eternal loss of a salvation ready to be granted at any call and any moment,—the

remediless ruin of souls which might have been saved!

Resuming the duties, taking part once more in the trials, of the week,—we can do all things through Christ Jesus strengthening us. But resting on ourselves, and left to ourselves, how weak and feeble are we! The first temptation would turn us aside! The smallest sorrow would overpower us! Strengthen Thou us with all might, endue us with power from on high. According to the purpose of our heart, our secret vow and resolve of the past day, may we have now the firmness to act. So may we estimate the world as we did then. So may we aspire after heaven. Must this week drag us down to the humiliating stupor and indifference from which, we trust, we were lately raised? Must we always recede and recover,—recover and recede?

Let family religion be more steadfast among us. May we never in the spirit of a false shame conceal its rites from the world, nor excuse them to it. May these be the gates of the righteous. May this be the habitation of the just. Make it a sure house. Let us constantly maintain the temper and conversation which become the Gospel of Christ. May we dread the doing of any fraud, and the utterance of any prevarication, more than death itself. May we walk

in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

Consider them, O Lord, for whom it is our duty more particularly to care. Thou hast surrounded us with relationships, and hast implanted in us affections, which bind us more intimately to some, than others, of mankind. Thy Gospel does not subvert nor discourage these. We would yield ourselves to the duties they involve. Caring and providing spiritually first for them of our own household, we pray for them who partake of our blood, and are bound to us by the closer ties of nature. Say of them, O Thou who wast born of woman, Behold my mother, and brethren, and sisters!

Render efficacious the means of grace which we attended, and millions throughout the earth attended, on the past day. Especially may Thy Spirit work with the consciences of men. Warn them to flee from the wrath to come. Pierce them with the arrows of conviction. Prick them to the heart. Awake in them the agonizing sense of wrath and condemnation. Open then their eyes to behold the Lamb. Send them to the Cross. Heal their wound. Be their salvation. May the Name be given under the whole heaven by which men may be saved!

We pray Thee, Most blessed Lord, to enter with us into all our circumstances of trial and

temptation. The scene of this world will soon be renewed. Our professions will be brought to a test, our souls into danger. Keep us as engraven on the palm of Thy hand,—hide us in its shadow,—secure us in its grasp. As the apple of Thine eye preserve us,—deal in tenderness toward Thy servants.

We have no claim, no title, no merit! The Lord is our Righteousness! By Christ we have received the Atonement! Worthy is the Lamb that was slain! And to the Eternal Power and Godhead,—the Father of Glory, the King of Glory, the Spirit of Glory,—the Glorious Lord,—be everlasting honours! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

O Righteous Father! Low would we cast ourselves before Thee, and mourn our defilement! Behold we are vile; what shall we answer Thee? We will lay our hand upon our mouth. Very often do our proud hearts suggest excuse, and would offer palliation. We are tempted to flatter ourselves in our own eyes, and to presume that we are not so displeasing to Thine. Once have

we spoken: but we will not answer: yea twice, but we will proceed no further. Though we were righteous, yet would we not answer Thee, but we would make supplication to our Judge.

But we, Most Holy Lord, dare not ask mercy of Thee, save that which is authorised and proffered. Only in one way, and by one name, canst Thou redeem us. Thine honour leaves Thee no alternative. We limit not Thy power, Thou Holy one of Israel! It is Thy perfection of character and government that this blessed scheme leaves every other inferior, and therefore unworthy of Thyself. O what arguments dost Thou put in the mouth of the guilty sinner, when he may appeal to Thine associated justice, truth, and mercy: and may, in earnest entreaty that he should not be refused, exclaim, For Thy Righteousness' sake, For Thy Name's sake, O Lord! Do not disgrace the throne of Thy glory!

May He, who taketh of the things of Christ, show them to us. Let us learn increasingly the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. To us may it be given to understand what an all-sufficient Saviour He is. May we feel that we need such a Saviour. To us may He be precious. May He be our life, our all. May we grow up unto Him in all things. May His example be set in our hearts. May we know nothing among

men but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And in Him, though now we see Him not, yet believing, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. May we follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.

We adore Thee who hast fixed the bounds, and granted the privileges, of our habitation, for all domestic comforts and allotments. How happy are we that, like Thine ancient nation, we can return to our own house and join our own kindred. We adore Thee for true religion, the religion of Thy word, the religion of our heart,—which so greatly blesses our home, relieves its straits, enhances its comforts, and soothes its afflictions. For the wicked has no foundation. He shall lean upon his house, but it shall not stand: he shall hold it fast, but it shall not endure. His dwelling-place shall come to nought. His confidence shall be rooted out of his tabernacle, and it shall bring him to the king of terrors. They that come after him shall be astonished at his day, as they who went before are affrighted. O write not against us such a sentence! Fill not for us such a cup!

The mercies of this day press upon our recollection, and call for our gratitude. How many the evils which have happened around us, that others call accidental! They are destroyed from morning to evening. How painful

and bitter the necessities which our neighbours have experienced! Could we now look into contiguous dwellings, how deep would be the adversities that we must mark! The eye is a fountain of tears. The heart knoweth its own bitterness. Ours is a goodly heritage. How benignant are our deliverances and exemptions! Thy hand is stretched out still. Thou performest all things for us.

Thy word, O Lord, is a light unto our feet. We thank Thee for it. We would tremble at it, and rejoice in it. In all things may we consult it. When troubled, may we seek its consolations. When tempted, by the words of Thy lips may we keep us from the paths of the destroyer. When perplexed, may it be the chart of our journey. And thinking upon celestials who keep the sayings of this book, may we be stimulated by a devout ambition to yield all deference to its authority, all awe to its majesty, all thankfulness to its grace!

While we would tenderly and gratefully bless Thee for the connections of affinity and blood which leave us not alone in walking through this great wilderness, we pray to remember that the place which now knoweth us shall soon know us no more. The grave shall quickly be our house: and we must make our bed in darkness. Let us think amidst every soft and gentle

emotion, that in a little while we shall say to Corruption, Thou art my father: to the Worm, Thou art my mother, and my sister. Our rest together shall be in the dust. May we covet a more enduring substance than we here possess: and seek a more abiding city. May we but die from each other to meet again, and sleep in the earth to awake together.

Remember the word unto Thy servants on which Thou hast caused them to hope. Glorious things hast Thou spoken of Thy Church in the the latter days,—how wide her extent and great her excellency, how numerous her converts and rapid her triumphs, how the sons of them that afflicted her shall come bending to her, and how all they that despised her shall bow themselves down at the soles of her feet! Hasten it, O Lord, in Thy time! A short work do Thou make on the earth!

We commit ourselves anew to Thee! The night is gathering around us, but the darkness and the light are both alike unto Thee. We ask of Thee repose and safety. Let the earliest recovered faculties of our mind raise their incense and song to Thee with the morning light! Day by day we magnify Thee, and we worship Thy name ever, world without end.

While we pray always in the Name of Jesus, we would be emptied of all conceit of our own

goodness, every dream of our own merit,—trusting, relying, on Him alone. Looking to ourselves, how could we presume? Looking to Him, how can we doubt?

To Jehovah, our God in the heavens,—Father, Son, and Spirit, be the honour that appertaineth to Him! Be the glory due unto His Name! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Hear us when we call, O God of our righteousness: have mercy upon us, and hear our prayer. For Thou dost hear sinners! And their welcome with Thee is measured by their self-renouncement! Their vileness is abhorrent to Thee, but not their sense of it! It is their guilt that they are so necessitous, but not that they feel it! This is agreeable to truth,—is pleasing in Thy sight; it is the sorrow which Thy Spirit moves, it is His intercession within us, the unutterable groan of shame and hope and love! And so would we come before Thee, Thou God of grace! Receive us graciously and love us freely. For when Thou sayest, By grace are ye saved, gladly would we accord to it as

a truth, cordially rejoice in it as a discovery. We adore Thee for such a dispensation of Thy purpose towards us, and shudder at the thought of its denial and rejection because it rebukes our arrogance and mortifies our pride. O for meekness suitable to its authority, for humility correspondent to its greatness, for gratitude equal to its mercy!

We desire to rest upon the oblation of the Cross: that sacrifice in virtue of which Christ is Priest for ever! that ransom which has elevated Him to the suretyship of the everlasting Covenant! Now we learn what Thy mercy is, and how it can operate. Once, while we spake of it, it was a vague thing to our minds, and we understood it not. So far as we can recall our notions, how narrow were they, and most unworthy. How dost Thou, in this way, glorify Thyself, and teach us in loving Thy salvation, to say continually, The Lord be magnified!

Impress us, notwithstanding that one event appears to happen to all, with the Providence which Thou dost exercise over Thy children. Whatever Its mystery, may we confide in its righteousness. Though clouds and darkness be round about it, may we unquestioningly leave Thee to do what seemeth Thee good. Be the wheel within the wheel, let us remember that every revolution is impelled by Thy Spirit; and

that when they are lifted up, amidst Thy glory may be perceived the likeness of the Son of Man. Grant that we review Thy procedure in respect of us with thankfulness, and trust in the Lord for ever!

We bless Thee for the mercies of the night. We might have risen in pain, under bereavement, amidst destitution, while the unrested heart still meditated terror or refused comfort. We thank Thee for other circumstances and feelings: for domestic happiness, for general health, for Christian peace. The Lord hath been mindful of us: He will bless us. And now that we are about to commence the business of this day, our cry shall be to Thee, Lord what wilt Thou have us to do? Say to each, Go work to-day in my vineyard. Assign our sphere and cheer our labour. Looking on all the works that our hands have wrought, forbid that it should be vanity and vexation of spirit, or that we should feel that there is no profit under the sun. To spend and to be spent in Thy service should be our reason of living and the delight of our life. Raise our minds to this standard, embue them with this desire. May we live unto the Lord. Cause us to remember that we are bought with a price, —not by corruptible things as silver and gold, but the precious blood of Christ. Cause us to regard ourselves as the temples of the Holy

Ghost,—set apart and consecrated by His indwelling. O shall such a Price be alienated, such a Temple be profaned?

Increase in us true religion. Let it be more itself in us. Give it greater power of impression and control! Lord! strengthen our faith. Shed more abundantly Thy love in our heart. How slow is our improvement in divine knowledge, how cold are our aspirings after divine assimilation! Quicken us according to Thy word. Bring us, keep us, nearer to Thyself. May we serve Thee more devotedly, more simply, even with our spirit in the Gospel of Thy Son. May we influence all around us by pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by love unfeigned.

We pray Thee that we may not encumber ourselves with the things of this world. May we use it as not abusing it. May we overcome it by our faith. May we so pass through things temporal as finally not to lose the things which are eternal. May our moderation be known unto all men. May we cherish every connection as mortal and dissoluble,—weep as though we wept not, rejoice as though we rejoiced not, buy as though we possessed not. Keep us from the love of pleasure and the idolatry of covetousness. Be our conversation in heaven. Let us set our affections on things above.

Establish Thy Church as a praise in all the earth. Gather the outcasts of Israel, and bring again the captivity of Jacob. Let the Jew, now a bye-word and proverb, resume his place in Thy family as the elder brother,—and the Prodigal Gentile return to eat bread in his Father's House.

But ah Lord God! should there be any of us in the gall of bitterness and bonds of iniquity? Should there be any of our kindred and intimates in unconversion? We would employ this season of domestic worship to beseech Thee on their behalf. First would we find them, and say unto them, We have found the Messias! Then would we bring them to Jesus!

To Thee we commend ourselves and to the word of Thy grace. Establish our goings. Anticipate our wants. Repel our enemies. And bring upon us, after our daily avocations cease, an evening of pious calm and peace.

Consecrated for evermore, ministering continually, in the True Sanctuary,—we look to our High Priest that our prayers and praises may find grace with Thee through the infinite value of His atonement, the infinite prevalence of His intercession!

Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him who sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.
"The Lord bless us," &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

THOU, O Lord, art every where! Whither can we go from Thy Spirit, or flee from Thy presence? We do not indeed see Thee with the eye of sense. Behold, we go forward, but Thou art not there; and backward, but we cannot perceive Thee: on the left hand, where Thou dost work, but we cannot behold Thee; Thou hidest Thyself on the right hand, that we cannot see Thee! But we may conceive of Thee, and realize Thee, in Thy Son who is come in our flesh. Seeing Him, we see Thee also. For He is the image of the Invisible God, the Express Image of Thy Person! We come unto Thee through Him. We would have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. May we have knowledge in the mystery of Christ. And while we bow our knees unto the Father, may Jesus plead our cause, and the Spirit indite our worship!

When alas! have we had adequate views and impressions of our depravity? When have we thought humbly of ourselves as we ought

to think? We were children of wrath even as others. We were the servants of sin. Our members were instruments of unrighteousness unto sin. We brought forth fruit unto death. In us dwelled no good thing. We minded the things of the flesh. Our carnal mind was enmity against Thee, we could not please Thee, and all our doings, however having a fair show, were tainted to their very root with evil. Let these be the genuine lamentations of our hearts. Save us from the pride of humility, the boast of lowly confession. Let us not feel a satisfaction in any self-knowledge that Thou hast given us. Let us not imagine that we are better than others by declaring ourselves worse.

From these considerations endear to us, O Lord! the Atonement of the Cross. How did we need it! What would have been our condition without it! This was the ransom which delivered us from going into the pit! This has delivered us from the lowest hell! Thus are we alone saved from wrath. Thus have we only peace and redemption. O give us not only a relative, but a moral, interest in the shedding of this Precious Blood. May He who suffered without the gate sanctify us by it. May we be crucified with Christ, buried with Him, dead with Him. May we know the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His

death. May we be delivered from this present evil world, may we die unto sin, may we crucify our affections and lusts, may we fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ, forasmuch as He has suffered for us in the flesh let us arm ourselves likewise with the same mind, and find in His death an example because forgivingly He committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously. Let us rise with Him, follow Him as our Forerunner, live by Him as our Head, obey Him as our Ruler, sit with Him in the heavenly places, and when He shall appear then may we also appear with Him in glory.

Let us share largely and increasingly in the Influences of Thy Holy Spirit. Increase our faith and deepen our repentance. By His supply may we be strengthened with all might, and nourished with all goodness. Through Him may we obey the truth, mortify the deeds of the body, and wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. May we never quench the Spirit! Never do despite to Him! Never grieve Him!

We would record with adoring acknowledgment, the enjoyments and blessings of another day. Health might have been violently assailed: life might have been cut short. Our food might have been stinted or denied. The pressure of necessity might have galled us. Open wickedness might have raged, or concealed transgression

might have been detected, among us. The sources of confidence might have been poisoned for all future time. Prayer might have been mocked, and hope blasted. O to Thee we owe it all,—this quiet, this good-will, this cheerful hearth, this sanctuary home. Oftentimes resort hither, know our souls in adversities, cause that those who are dear to us should not die, long perpetuate our happiness,—and when this scene must be broken up, receive us into everlasting habitations.

May we retire to the rest of the night, thankful, penitent, having peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us have no reason to doubt our justified safety or our regenerate nature. Let no cloud be on our spirit, no sadness at our heart. And now that we have come unto the tabernacle of our house and are about to go up into our bed, may we sleep untroubled and undisturbed,—trusting still in Thee who wakenest morning by morning, who wakenest our ear to hear as the learner.

Give to Thy Son His reward and kingdom. May He see His seed, may He prolong His days, may the pleasure of the Lord prosper in His hands. Let all that are incensed against Him be ashamed. Bring again Zion. Command the waste places of Jerusalem to break forth into joy, to sing together. Divide Him a portion

with the great. So, Lord God! cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Remembering how frail we are, that we are crushed ere the moth, that our days are an handbreadth,—we pray that we may be continually prepared for death. We would often read the sentence of death in us. We would be waiting until our change come. Let it not come upon us unawares. May our returning Lord find us watching.

We bear in mind the unconverted of our friends and relations. Through our prayers may they be given unto us. May we be bound to give thanks alway to God for them. Let the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in them, and they in Him. Should any have persecuted us in times past, may we soon find that they have embraced, and henceforth spread, the faith which they once destroyed.

These our religious services we celebrate through the Mediation of our Blessed Lord and Saviour,—and ascribe to the Father, to the Son, and to the Spirit, Jehovah Most High over all the earth, eternal honours! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

BEHOLD Thou art mighty, O God! and despisest not any! Thou art mighty in strength and wisdom! With Thee are the balancings of the clouds which Thou causest to come whether for correction or for mercy. Thou spreadest out the sky, which is strong and as a molten looking-glass. By Thee the breadth of the waters is straitened. Thou hast commanded the morning, and causest the day-spring to know its place!

We can have no fellowship with Thee but by Christ,—the way, the truth, and the life. We should profane Thy presence if we presumed to address Thee in our own name and right. We can recover no portion of the distance between Thyself and us. We can in no degree, the most inconsiderable, propitiate Thy wrath or win back Thy friendship. Thou art in Christ for the purpose of reconciling us to Thee, Thyself already reconciled. O may we close with this gracious arrangement, now enjoy the communion which it admits, have boldness to enter the Holiest of all, trust and not be afraid!

Thou openest Thy hand, and satisfiest every living creature. Thou givest abundance of meat. But we pray that this subsistence may be given to us as the food of Thy children. Let us not

ask it first, but may it be added to our possession of Thy kingdom and righteousness. Let it be freely given to us among those blessings which, having not spared Thy own Son but delivered him up for us all, how shalt Thou not bestow? We dare not ask a prosperity which might turn our hearts from Thee. We would not envy that success in life which too often raises the world to an undue importance and captivation.—For even then, how might our spirit want! In the fulness of our sufficiency we might be in straits! All our days we might eat in darkness! Thy curse might be on our dwelling! Our prosperity might destroy us! We might but nourish ourselves for the day of slaughter! Feed us with food convenient for us. Adapt Thy mercies to us, and us to Thy mercies. Let us never speak in respect of want. In whatsoever state we are, may we learn therewith to be content. May abundance or poverty be sanctified by the word of God and prayer. Do Thou, Our God, supply all our need according to Thy riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We bless Thee for the mercies which have attended us during the night. Thou hast been our shield, now be our sun! While the light of day shines around us, shine into our hearts. Let us awake to righteousness and sin not. May

our souls be in health. May our inner man be renewed. In all our labour may we do the work of the Lord. Whatever our service be, may we do it heartily, as unto Thee and not unto men. May we do all to Thy glory. And let our expressions of gratitude and devotedness spring from a sense of Thy pardoning and adopting Love!

Impart to us a greater influence of true piety. May we present ourselves to Thee without reserve. Kindle our souls into a whole burnt-offering. Let no faculty detach itself from Thy cause, nor become indifferent in it. All that is within us claim, direct, and consecrate.

Too often do we forget, O Lord of our life, how frail we are. We project for the future as though it were our own. Impress upon us a more realizing and abiding recollection of our mortality. May we set the final scene more faithfully before us. O how short is the time! What a shadow is man! He cometh in with vanity, and departeth in darkness! Thou the Resurrection and the Life! quicken now our souls with eternal life: and when they lay down their bodies in the grave, may it be a gentle and a brief separation, until the first be perfected and the other be glorified for an eternal re-union in heaven!

Be very favourable to the great interests in

which Thou dost delight,—loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. Let the bigotry, the selfishness, the parsimony, the contentions, of Thy Church perish! Make Thy saving health known unto all nations. Destroy the covering cast over all people. Say to the Missionary, Be strong. Place salvation for a helmet on his head. Cause him in every place to triumph in Christ. May his life be precious in Thy sight. May he know that his labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Much would we bear at heart the state of our friends and relatives who know Thee not. Surrounded by the same light, they have no vision. Behold them in pity, walking according to the course of this world. May we be patterns to them of what Thy grace can do, and exemplars of the holiness which it produces. May their conversion answer our prayers, and yield a full delight to the love and care which we cherish for their immortal souls.

Be with us, O our Father, during all the hours and scenes of this day. Give us not over to our enemies. Suffer not our iniquities to prevail against us. Leave us not to ourselves. In Thy name may we rejoice all the day long, and in Thy righteousness may we be exalted. May the Lord be our refuge, even the Most High our habitation!

Suppliants and worshippers we alike appear before Thy Majesty and Purity, in the name, and through the mediation, on earth and in heaven, of the Incarnate and Atoning Jesus. To Whom, with Thyself, and the Holy Spirit, be equal, endless, praise. Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

LET no guile, O Thou who requirest truth in the inward parts, be in our mouth and heart whenever we profess to seek Thy face and celebrate Thy worship! If we regard iniquity in our hearts, Thou wilt not hear us! In vain we draw near Thee with our mouth, and with our lips do honour, when we have removed our heart far from Thee, or if our fear toward Thee is taught by precept of men! Nor would we be like them who in their affliction seek Thee early. Lord! in trouble have they visited Thee; they poured out a prayer when Thy chastening was upon them. Will the wicked delight himself in the Almighty? Will he always call upon God?

May we be drawn unto Thee by every

sympathy of love, and desire of good. May we acquaint ourselves with Thee and be at peace. May the Holy Spirit quicken us to call upon Thy name. May our soul return, after all its wanderings, to Thee, its centre and its rest. In Thee let it enjoy its portion. In Thy favour let it find its life. But the wrongs we have done Thy character and government must be first repaired, or else Thou canst not hear us. By breaking the law we have dishonoured Thee. Shall we disannul Thy judgment? or shall we condemn Thee, that we may be righteous? Let God be true! For ever, O Lord, Thy word is settled in heaven! Thou art well pleased for the righteousness of Him who hath magnified Thy law, and made it honourable. O the glory of the Cross! Thou hast made peace by its blood. By it we would come near unto Thee, and call Thee our Father! Strong in its confidence, melted by its tenderness, we assure our hearts before Thee!

And now, Our Father-God, visit us with Thy salvation. Renew its peace and joy. Clear to us the evidence of our interest in it. Let it work mightily, effectually, in us. Let corruption yield. Let darkness flee away. May the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus. And in our progressive sanctification do Thou give to us the enlarged proofs of Thy

grace, and of our meetness for the inheritance of the saints in life.

The consciousness of Thy favour is our only satisfaction. Earnestly we crave it. Show us a token for good. May we see the good of Thy chosen, rejoice in the gladness of Thy nation, glory in Thine inheritance. Let Thy peace rule in our hearts. Give us to eat of the hidden manna. Refresh us with the spiritual drink which flows unceasingly from the Rock. Keeping the words of Jesus, may the Father love us, and They come unto and make Their abode with us. Very God of peace! compose and cheer our spirits. When Thou givest quietness, who then can make trouble? and when Thou hidest Thy face, who then can behold Thee?

Pardon the follies and sins which have marked another day of our life. We humble ourselves before Thee. We bewail the heart, the source of all evil. We confess our apostate nature. Pour upon us the Spirit of a true repentance. May sin have no dominion over us. May we resist unto blood, striving against it. Neither by the indulgence of thought or wish, let us bring into our house or bosom the accursed thing!

Show pity on those who are irreligious either of our number, or of our connections. Shall we not invite them into the ark which,

moved by fear, we have entered? Shall we not warn them to flee the ruin from which we have escaped, and to shelter themselves in the strong city which we have found,—telling them that salvation has God appointed for the walls and bulwarks? O may they be saved in the day of the Lord! And ere that consummation may we be comforted together with them by the mutual faith both of them and us!

May our hearts be enlarged towards Thy honour and cause in the world. How few call for justice and plead for truth! Carry fire into the house of their gods! The idols do Thou utterly abolish! Convince the nations that there was none before Thee, and shall be none after Thee! Come forth, O Redeemer, from Zion, and turn away ungodliness from Jacob! Make bare Thy holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and may all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God!

Take us under Thy peculiar care while the darkness is on our earth. Compose us to our sleep. And may we long for the happy world which is checkered by no alternation of day and night, where no weariness depresses the eyelid nor anxiety wears out the heart, where the spirit for ever renews its youth and exults in its untiring vigour.

We bow before the Infinite Justice and

Holiness, strong in the faith of Christ Jesus by which we give glory to both. Our prayer and praise shall alone hope for acceptance from His infinitely meritorious mediation. While He ministereth, we cannot seek Thy face in vain.

O righteous Father! O Lamb of God! O Spirit of truth! The God of the Christians! Blessed be Thy Name for evermore.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

We will praise Thee, O Lord! among the people; we will bless Thee among the nations! For Thy merciful kindness is great towards us, and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. We will give thanks unto the Lord, and call upon His name, and make known His deeds, and talk of all His wondrous works, and glory in His holy name, and seek the Lord and his strength, and seek His face evermore. Let our hearts rejoice while we seek the Lord!

But guilt and pollution cannot find access to Thee. Vengeance is Thine. Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not go unpunished. All our works done in an unconverted state are but works of sin. The tears of remorse cannot

wash away one defiling stain. And we must have still been far off, alienated from Thee, but for the Expedient of Thy Wisdom and the Achievement of Thy Power, in Christ Crucified, to bring us nigh. We could have devised no plan, we could have offered no accommodation. It cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, who is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working. We approach Thee in this Thine own, Thine only, way; we admire its greatness, we love its aptitude, we trust its self-sufficience; we extol it the more that there is none other, and that Thou knowest none other! So to be shut up to this,—is our safety,—is Thy Renown!

Thou who pourest water on him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground,—Thou who hast the Spirit,—shed His choicest influences on our understandings and hearts. Through His power may we abound in hope, in joy, in holiness. May we sow to Him, and of Him reap life everlasting. May we through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the body. May He dwell in us as the earnest of our inheritance. By Him may we keep the good Thing given unto us. May His anointing teach us all things. Let a sweet proof of His love warm on our spirit. And having been led of Him throughout our life, may we when we die hear his closing testimony; and feeling that we are blessed by dying in the

Lord, may this be the perfect confirmation, Yea saith the Spirit!

Again the light visits us, and day calls us to our duties. To Thee we ascribe every convenience of our dwelling, and every comfort of our repose. The pestilence walketh in darkness, but Thou hast not suffered it to light on us. Unnumbered dangers might have risen against our unconscious helplessness,—the consuming flame, the armed man,—but Thou hast made us dwell in safety. Salvation, temporal as well as spiritual, is of the Lord.

We take our place once more in busy social life, the state to which Thy Providence has called us. We pray not to be taken out of the world, but to be kept from the evil. Whether our lot be more public or more quiet, we would think of it as cast for us. Let us not choose the scene of danger, nor rush upon temptation. Let us not attempt to serve two Masters, to serve God and Mammon. Wherever we are, whatever we do, may our heart be always Thine. Ever may we lift up our soul to Thee in every trial of temper and every contest of principle. May it be as well with us should we expire in our secular occupation,—may we die as truly at the post of duty and in the spirit of piety,—as though our soul went from us in immediate acts of supplication and praise. May we be found so doing,

that the Lord when He cometh may approve and say, Well done good and faithful servants, enter ye into the joy of your Lord!

Order our steps and keep our souls. Let sin have no dominion over us. Be at our right hand, and always before us. Suffer not our faith to fail. Far from us be all envy of unrighteous acquisition. Let us never complain that we have suffered from our adherence to truth and equity, —that we have cleansed our hearts in vain, and washed our hands in innocency. May nothing, not death itself, tempt us to remove our integrity from us. Let no deviation, the slightest, from truth,—let no compromise, the smallest, of probity,—sully our profession and wound our conscience. Let us attend to the things of good report. Let not our good be evil spoken of. Let us shun the appearance of evil. Let us ask, What do we more than others? Let us be more excellent than our neighbour. And, abiding by our principles, patiently and cheerfully may we suffer all the consequences of that fixed purpose and immoveable resolve.

Making mention of them always in our prayers, we entreat for the unregenerate of our lovers, friends, and acquaintance. Write their names with ours in the book of life. Translate them from the power of darkness into the kingdom of Thy dear Son. May the communication

of their faith become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in them in Christ Jesus.

Restore to allegiance and happiness, O God! this rebellious world. Thou the Healer, cure its ills! Thou the Comforter, assuage its woes! May there be the restitution of all things! Peace be on earth, good will among men! Confirm the word of Thy servants, and perform the counsel of Thy messengers! Bring near Thy righteousness, and let not Thy salvation tarry!

We confess how unworthy we are to be heard, but our hope is in Thee. Thou hast raised up a horn of salvation. Thou art well pleased in Christ. Now we know that Thou favourest us. We ask all in His Name, for His sake! And to our Triune God we offer the sacrifices of praise continually! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

We have heard with our ears, O God! our fathers have told us what work Thou didst in their days, in the times of old. Thou hadst a favour towards them. They trusted in Thee and

were not ashamed. In Thee they boasted all the day long. They stood against an ungodly nation. They obeyed Thee rather than man. They prayed, endured, and bled, for us. They laboured, and we are entered into their labours. The devotion of their hearths was often violated, and the Holy Volume torn from them. But under Thee, we have received at the cost of their labours and sacrifices, every holy privilege and right. And now beneath the shade of our domestic altar we meet as a family, reading Thy word, performing Thy worship, no man forbidding us, no interruption disturbing us, no apprehension scaring us,—serving Thee without fear, and praising Thee without molestation! The marauder rends not down our peaceful vine and figtree, nor hunts for our life! The lines are fallen to us in pleasant places, we have a goodly heritage!

Not unmindful of the happy difference between us and our persecuted fathers,—not, we trust, ungrateful for it,—we would remember, O God! how they disclaimed all self-righteousness, how they leaned altogether on the infinite merit of Immanuel in his obedience unto the death of the cross, how they sought only to be saved by grace. In like manner may we from our place of peace, as they did from their place of desolation, look to the Atonement with a penitent,

believing, steadfast eye; and in its virtue find not only each saving effect, but an antidote to the danger of our calm, as they did a stronghold from their tempest!

Lord! Thou dost allot to the generations of Thy children varied duties, and we would search into our own. May we have understanding of the times to know what we ought to do. Especially keep us from a lifeless formality in religion, from superficial attainment, from careless walking, from frigid indifference. Let us not be at ease in Zion. Let us not wear our profession loosely. In these more auspicious days may we watch and be sober, may we endure hardness, may we keep under and bring into subjection the body, may we deny ourselves, —the more that there is now the contrary temptation and another too common course.

We thank Thee if Thou hast showed to us where is our help. We will love Thee, O Lord our strength. Send us effectual succour. Let the exceeding greatness of Thy power actuate us. Then shall our difficulties melt away. They who hate us shall flee before us, A bow of steel shall be broken in our hand!

May we cultivate domestic religion, and keep piety at home. May no happy recurrence, no blessed variety, of public ordinances, divert our attention from our own vineyard. May

parents consider their responsibility, and their children become their own genuine children in the faith. May servants improve their advantages, and give themselves up to Thee while Thou art near. Let our strife be who shall set the most holy example, and who shall display the most unfailing kindness. May we all move in the element of love. Let us walk in wisdom to them who are without. May a holy leaven effuse from this household among all who are united to us. May they be won without the word. May they say, We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you!

Inspire us with a more enlarged and public zeal. Let no sectarian and party bonds debar us from the universal fellowship of Thy Church. Let us hate divisions and the causes of them. May our love abound more and more. Wherever Thine image shines, may it attract us, and excite our esteem. Let us be lovers of good men. Nor permit us to limit our regards only as they follow with us. May our sympathy be with the whole Body holding the Head. Let the envy of Ephraim depart, and the adversaries of Judah be cut off: let not Ephraim envy Judah, nor Judah vex Ephraim.

We would think upon our efforts to spread the Gospel, among the Heathen and other unenlightened nations, with shame. We have not

wrought any deliverance in the earth, neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen. Let us not be the covetous, whom the Lord abhorreth. Let us not be the cold-hearted, cursed because they come not to the help of the Lord against the mighty. Save us from blood-guiltiness, O God of our salvation. Let us ponder well the claims of mankind, and how we are debtors to the Greek and to the Barbarian, to the wise and to the unwise. Yet would we thank Thee for success the most unexpected as undeserved. We can declare Thy doings among the people: we can make mention that Thy Name is exalted. Thou, O Lord! hast done excellent things, this is known in all the earth.

We record with thankfulness the mercies which have crowned the past day. Our supplications ascend to Thee for protection and tranquillity through this night. Let no harm befall, and no terror disturb, us. With renovated powers of being may we welcome the dawn, take again our place and perform our part in life, spending our every day as though it were our last.

Hear us in our thanksgivings and petitions for the sake of Thine Anointed, the Holy One of God! The Great High Priest, who offered up Himself! The Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous! And to the Blessed

Trinity we offer ascriptions and songs of everlasting praise! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

ALLWISE, Almighty, All merciful Creator! Lord of heaven and earth, The Former of all things! Who hast lavished such kindness upon us the highest creatures of this world, giving breath to the people upon it, and spirit to them who walk therein! What sources of enjoyment hast Thou opened for us! How hast Thou contrived our every sense for delight! How do a thousand, and a thousand, objects rise ministering to us gratification! What sweet sounds does Nature utter! How fair and majestic the scenes which the material universe presents! We look upon the rainbow, and praise Him that made it; very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof: it compasseth the heaven about with a glorious circle, and the hands of the Most High have bended it.

We adore Thee for the happiness Thou dost connect with certain states of the mind; with the performances of individual and social duty: with love, benevolence, order, and uni-

versal good-will. Thou hast made it pleasant and fit to discharge the offices of life, and the obligations of station. So that all is beautiful in its season, and we bless ourselves on the earth.

But what a stain is our rebellion on the loveliness and grandeur of all around us! We the only intellectual, accountable, creatures of this building, have deeply revolted. We are altogether become unprofitable. How shall our unclean lips sing Thy praise? How shall our wicked hands pile Thine offering? There is no health in us. All we do is sin. All we are is guilty.

We therefore magnify the exceeding riches of Thy grace in the redemption which is by Christ Jesus. We approach Thee through His offered blood. We rest on His sacrificial merit. In His death we seek our only life.

And though in an unconverted state we may have felt the pleasantness and convenience of certain duties, yet, O God, we humbly own that in such state there is no security for the execution even of these. Much more would we confess our native indifference and disinclination to the requirements of religion, of whatever is serious and spiritual, of whatever looks forward to the condition of the soul in the life to come. How thoughtless, stubborn, unsusceptible, are we here! Help us by Thy Holy Spirit. Endue us

with power from on high. Strengthen us with all might, according to Thy glorious power, in our inner man. Then shall we run in the way of Thy commandments, and prove that in keeping them there is great reward.

We bless Thee, Gracious Benefactor, for the blessings of the past night, and for those of this opening day. It might go ill in our tabernacle. Thy wrath might deservedly consume us. But still we experience Thy forbearance and bounty. Thou holdest our soul in life. Thou loadest us with benefits. Establish with us an everlasting covenant. Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied!

Compassionate our irreligious kindred; and all those in an unconverted state, in whom we take special interest. Night and day we would pray exceedingly for them. Shall our interchange of affection suddenly close with the present life, never to be renewed? How oft has the earnest, travailing, prayer in such respects been heard! How have whole households, and even connections, been reclaimed! Let our prayers be frequent, importunate, on their behalf: let them come up as a *memorial* before Thee!

Cast Thine eye of pity, God of the whole earth, upon all who are ignorant and out of the way. In our own country may the glorious

Gospel prevail. May all churches, avowing the Sovereign Headship of the Redeemer, be revived and extended. May the Seminaries of religion and learning, especially those devoted for the perfecting of saints for the work of the ministry, receive Thy peculiar blessing. Let the stewards of Thy mysteries be more faithful, and the pastors of Thy flocks be more vigilant. Raise the tone of piety among us. Quicken the things which remain and are ready to die. Kindle up all our altars into flames of devotion, liberality, and self-consuming zeal.

Bless the civil institutions of our land. Continue to us our precious liberties. May we constantly seek of Thee their guardianship and defence. Prepare salvation for our rulers, especially for our present monarch. May the Throne be upheld by righteousness and mercy. May this great nation have a beneficent influence upon all the countries of the earth, as the champion of peace and the herald of salvation. Let it appear that it has come to its present ascendancy for such a time as this!

Let us consider our latter end. We know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man cometh. May we be prepared to meet our God. However sudden may it be a welcome summons. May our lamps burn brighter amidst the darkness and the chill of death.

Good Shepherd, go before us, and let us hear Thy voice in that gloomy valley: we will follow Thee, we shall know Thy voice, and none shall pluck us out of Thy hands!

Direct and sustain and favour us during this day. Hold us back from sinning against Thee. If tempted, make withal a way of escape. Spare us a little longer. May we be profitable so long as we abide in the flesh. Afterward receive us to glory.

Accept us, and our unworthy devotions, in the name of Him, who having offered one sacrifice for sins, for ever sat down on the right hand of God. And to our Covenant God, Father, Son, and Spirit, be ceaseless and equal honour! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

Thou, Most Upright! dost weigh the path of the just! The steps of a good man are ordered by Thee! Thou knowest the way of the righteous, while the way of the ungodly shall perish! Thou leadest Joseph like a flock! Each turning of their pilgrimage Thou dost consider. Thou

dost mark their track. Thou dost guide them by Thine eye. For we have not to ask, Where is He that brought up His people out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? So didst Thou lead Thy people, to make Thyself a glorious name. And still the skilfulness of Thy hands directs us. Thou dost teach us when to go, and when to rest. The Ark is not taken. The Cloud has not disappeared!

And how gratefully, O our Father, should we record Thy superintending care! What proofs have we experienced of Thy condescension to our minutest interests! In the day that we cried Thou answeredst us. When we walked in the midst of trouble Thou didst revive us. When our spirit was overwhelmed within us, then Thou knewest our path. We have poured out our complaint before Thee: we have showed before Thee our trouble. Thou tellest our wanderings: Thou hast preserved the record of our very tears in Thy Book!

We thank Thee especially for domestic comforts. We meet in peace, we are screened from harm, we are provided with numberless enjoyments. Our home is a haven from the storm, an altar to cling to. Thou dost overshadow it with the Tree of life. Ever may there be room for Thee! Be Thou the Master of the household!

But suffer not those softened views of Thy Character which Thy Providence encourages and enables us to indulge, to lower those solemn, dread, conceptions which Thy Just Displeasure against sin should awaken. We are the evil and the unthankful, though crowned with Thy mercies. We have no right in Thy holy presence. Thou mightst lead us forth with the workers of iniquity. Thou mightst heap mischiefs and make a full end of us. We lay our guilty hands on the great Atonement. We look for redemption in that Blood. We have no self-righteous plea. Apply this remedy to our souls. Give us a rich experience of it. May it be the source of vital piety. May it subdue whatever is stubborn in our will. May it purify our affections. Cause a deep searching into our aims and motives. Let us take more earnest heed. Save us from a profession without charity, a faith that is dead, a hope that shall make ashamed. Never may we take the specious for the real,—never substitute the form for the power of godliness,—because every plant that our Heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up.

Sanctify to our good, and spiritual improvement, every trial with which it shall please Thee to chasten us. Correct us, but in measure. Chasten us not in Thy hot displeasure.

Righteous art Thou, O Lord, when we

plead with Thee: yet, let us talk with Thee of Thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? How little are we able to understand Thy procedure! Still we will say, when we momentarily repine, This is our infirmity. If we cannot explain their course, may we understand their end. Let us learn to acquiesce. Not only may we submit, but rejoice in tribulation. Nor suffer us to complain of thorns in a way which conducts us where there is no more curse.

Think upon our relatives and friends in mercy! Thy grace is not invariable in its line. Pious parents have not always a godly seed. From the good olive tree branches often fall corrupt and fruitless. In vain may it be said, We have Abraham unto our father. None can be regenerate by being born of blood, or of the will of the flesh, or of the will of man,—that birth is of God! Take compassion upon the irreligious of our circle or of our connections. Ah, if aught could induce us to look back on the destruction we are flying, it is to know whether they of our kindred, whom we have warned to get out of this place, be pursuing.

Bring the wickedness of the wicked to an end. Lay low the strong-holds of darkness and superstition. May our beloved Missionaries wrestle with the Principalities and Powers, the

Spiritual Wickedness in high places, most firmly and victoriously. May they advance their standards, and set up their banners. May the heathen despair of their cause. May they feel that their Rock has sold them. May they regard their overthrow as certain and shameful, while there is strewn among them many a despised broken idol.

Grant us this night our sleep, as we ask for each day our daily bread. Thou canst hold our eyes waking, with restless bodies, with agitated minds. But we need this support and renovation of our physical constitution,—it is Thine own law,—and we now implore this comfort at Thy hand. With the morning may we arise,—our first thought, a holy meditation,—our first excitement, a divine desire,—the first opening of our lips, a showing forth of Thy praise!

In the name of Jesus, Whom Thou lovest because He laid down His Life that He might take it again, we prefer our requests and thanksgivings. And to the Father of an infinite majesty,—Thine honourable, true, and only Son,—also the Holy Ghost the Comforter,—be ceaseless adorations! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O LORD of Hosts! Blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee! Blessed are all they that put their trust in Thee! As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even for ever! Thou art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them who are afar off upon the sea. We would trust in Thee at all times, and pour out our hearts unto Thee: God is a refuge for us.

But how can we joy in Thee, or look to Thy faithfulness and justice with delight? It is through Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the Atonement. This counsel was of the Lord. Thou only couldst devise, Thou only canst comprehend, the plan, by which the Law is glorified in the escape of the transgressor, and the Lawgiver finds in pardoning the rebellion against him the occasion of His vindication. Thou art faithful and just in forgiving our sin, and in cleansing us from all unrighteousness.

We adore Thee that salvation by a substitutionary righteousness and sacrifice has been always known to Thy people, and that they have had joy and peace in believing. Abel obtained the witness that he was thus righteous,

Noah was a preacher of it, to Abraham was it reckoned being yet uncircumcised, David describeth it,—it was witnessed by the law and the prophets. This was all their desire. And we believe that through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved even as they. Lord! we accept the proffered mercy, we close with this great salvation, we fly for refuge to the hope set before us! We cast aside our garment to come to Thee! We would walk on the waves to meet Thee! We would see Jesus! We would entreat His favour with our whole heart! If we may but touch the hem of His garment, we shall be whole!

Send down upon us the succours of Thy Spirit. Such is the ignorance of our minds, the hardness of our hearts, that they can yield only to His light and power. May He bring us to Christ, teach us to cry to Him, and persuade us to the love of truth and holiness. May our inner nature be as subject to his way, as was the earth, when without form and void, to Him moving upon the face of the waters. Let the new creature, arrayed in lustre and instinct with purity, rise up beneath His creative voice and brooding wing.

Receive our early gratitude. Manifold are Thy kindnesses towards us. The morning breaks on us in peace. The night leaves a

pleasant remembrance. By Thy favour Thou hast made our mountain to stand strong. We sit down under our vine and our figtree. Thou givest us all good things. We would gratefully reflect on whatever Thou withholdest. How richly may we be indebted to Thee in not lifting us to the slippery places of worldly greatness: in imposing on us the necessity of some species of daily occupation: in fencing our way from the evils of prosperity and sloth! If Thou feedest us with food convenient for us, if Thou settest our foot in an even place, if Thou givest us the heritage of Them who fear Thee,—we would esteem ours the happiest of any lot. Make with us Thy Covenant, O Lord! Let Thy Peace rule in our hearts!

Keep us this day from evil thoughts and passions: from unclean imaginings, from covetous desires, from envy, from resentment, from revenge. Let us not seek great things for ourselves. Extinguish within us the torment of pride and thirst of distinction. May we be meek and lowly in mind. May we have fervent charity. May we go about doing good. So shall we find that in the quiet spirit is great price. So shall we prove that in benevolent dispositions and exercises there is true godliness. So shall we realize that Thou dost give us rest!

Bless all who have done us kindness at any time. Restore them tenfold for the many things in which they have ministered unto us. If any have calumniated and wronged us, if we have enemies, help us first from our hearts to forgive them, and then to seek their forgiveness of Thee.

We grieve when they, who are dear to us, are aliens from the commonwealth of Thy people, and strangers to the covenanted promises. What a barrier thus opposes our fellowship with them! How our spirits fail to reach their spirits! We see in them but the image of the earthly, however superficially relieved. We can only know them as the born of the flesh, however their descent is flatteringly covered. If we have given any offence to them in respect to the Gospel, forgive us! If we have thrown any stumbling-block in their way of receiving it, remove it! May our prayer be heard for their salvation! Still may we labour fervently in prayers that they may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God!

Bring back the world to Thy blessed fold. We, the sheep of Thy pasture, pray Thee to bring Thine other sheep which are not of this fold. They have turned every one to his own way. They are scattered on the mountains. The grievous wolves spare not the flock. Search

Thy sheep and seek them out. Let them hear Thy voice, Thou Good Shepherd! Let them return to the Shepherd of their souls!

It is appointed unto us once to die, and our day may have come to die. Let us consider what is our state before Thee: and how we shall stand in the judgment. May the solemn thought of being so unclothed, and so clothed upon, induce us to renew our repentance, to try the hope of our calling, to make our election sure.

Now that we break off from our devotions, and separate from each other, and repair to our appointed duties,—go Thou with us, abide Thou among us, may every engagement redound to Thy glory, and each temper accord to Thy love.

We entreat acceptance of person, prayer, and thanksgiving through the Excellent Ministry which the Great High Priest hath obtained in the Heavens! To whom with the Father and the Sanctifier, be eternal praise! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O God of our life and of our salvation! Let our cry come unto Thee. Thou hearest prayer. Turn not ours away from Thee. There is a portion of the wicked man from God, which he shall receive of the Almighty. But the portion of Jacob is not like them, for He is the Former of all things. May the Lord be the portion of our souls, and therefore may we trust in Him.

We come in the name of Thy dear Son. Our reliance is on the Sacrifice which He offered for sin, on the Death which He tasted for every man. We plead with Thee through the Lamb who was led to the slaughter, who still appears as He had been slain. And how are we encouraged while we dwell upon those passages of infinite tenderness which marked the days of His flesh! When did guilt weep at His feet, and was not forgiven! When did the wail of sorrow break upon His ear, from the leper,—from the blind,—the outcast of the city,—the beggar on the highway,—though hastening to His most solemn scenes, and He stood not still? He has prayed for Himself,—He now prays for his people,—Him Thou hearest always!

And now that another week concludes, and to-morrow is the Rest of our God, we come to

Thy Footstool with adoring thankfulness. There has been no cessation of Thy care and bounty. The Lord hath preserved us from evil: He has preserved our soul. The Lord hath preserved our going out and our coming in. Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth. Through these six days Thou hast fed us, clothed us, shielded us, conducted us, blessed us. We have not lacked any necessary thing. Thy goodness has prevented us. Our tabernacle is not spoiled, nor are its cords broken. We would give thanks unto the Lord,—to Him that made great lights, for His mercy endureth for ever! the sun to rule by day, for His mercy endureth for ever! the moon and the stars to rule by night, for His mercy endureth for ever!

But we have many sins of which to repent: many weaknesses to deplore. We come not only with the burden of daily trespasses and imperfections, but with that of the past week. How guilty must we be in Thy sight! How strange to Thee must appear our inconsistencies! How little have we done in Thy service! How broken have been our aims for Thy glory! How coldly have we longed for Thy judgments at all times! How feeble has been our understanding according to Thy word! How have we gone astray! Vague have been the impressions of eternity upon our minds. We have walked in Thy ways with

a too hesitating step. We have not fronted the world with a sufficiently determined brow. We have too much yielded to its rules and maxims; or at least we have felt too much of its spirit. Deliver us from this evil world! Remove our shoulder from its burden. Expel every temper of conformableness to it from our heart. May all its secular business be so arranged, that it may leave no care on our minds to-morrow.

Our recollections of Thy bounty stretch back to the threshold of our being. When children, Thou didst love us. Thou didst teach us to go, taking us by our arms. Thou didst restore us from weakness and disease, though we knew not that Thou didst heal us. How great has been Thy longsuffering to usward! How have we requited it! We have made Thee to serve with our sins: we have wearied Thee with our iniquities. How could Thy vengeance so long sleep! Thou art God, and not man!

We would anticipate with sacred pleasure the engagements of the morrow, the day of grateful peace. Our spirits require its memorial, its incentive, its repose. We will worship toward Thy holy temple, and praise Thy name for Thy loving-kindness and Thy truth. May we wait for the morning. Then do Thou fill Thy house with Thy glory. Enter into Thy rest. Let Thy work appear unto Thy servants, and Thy

glory unto their children. May we see Thy goings, O God our King, in Thy sanctuary. Abundantly bless the provisions of Thy house, and satisfy Thy poor with bread. For it is not vain to serve God, and there is profit when we keep His ordinance. We have sought Thee among Thy works: but we have found Thee in Thy Temples.

Be very favourable, O Lord, to the Vine which Thou hast planted amongst us, Thy Church subsisting in every difference of administration. Let there be no strife among brethren. Let them now be of one heart, and speedily of one mind. Repair her fences, and spread her branches to the ends of the earth. Build up the waste places of Zion. Thou who didst remember the children of the Bondage in Egypt, and the children of the Captivity in Babylon, compassionate the children of the Dispersion among all the nations of the earth. May Jesus be known of his brethren. May they look on Him whom they have pierced, and mourn. Say Thou of the ancient people, I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them. Feed the flock of Thy heritage, which now dwell solitarily, in the midst of Carmel, in Bashan, and Gilead, as in the days of old. Nor forget the wandering, idolatrous, Gen-

tiles. They know Thee not, nor call upon Thy name. Let their altars rend asunder. We thank Thee for Thy purpose of mercy towards them. Thou art not wrath that Thou dost ride upon Thy horses, and Thy chariots of salvation! For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Pour out Thy Spirit upon all flesh. How can we better hail the approaching dawn than by prayer for His influence? For without Him, the preaching of the Gospel would indeed be foolishness, and Thy servants would weary themselves for very vanity!

We cast ourselves upon Thy protection. Give stillness to our sleeping frames, speak comfort and quiet to our spirits. Like the holy women, let our earliest thoughts visit the Saviour's tomb; and with His convinced disciples, may we be glad because we see the risen Lord!

Hear us, O Father, for the sake of Thy Dear Son,—the spotless Victim of Expiation, the All-powerful Advocate for sinners,—who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end. Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

Fourth Week.

LORD'S DAY MORNING.

GREAT art Thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in the mountain of Thy holiness. Thou didst come of old with ten thousands of Thy saints! Thousand thousands ministered unto Thee, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Thee! But Thou dost this day seek Thy saints below, Thou summonest Thy people to Thy temple, Thou preparest for them a feast of fat things, Thou stoopest to inhabit their praises, Thou wilt dwell with man on the earth. Thou requirest us to keep Thy Sabbaths, and to reverence Thy sanctuaries. This is the day for our solemn meeting. This is the statute for Israel, and a law of the God of Jacob. This Thou hast ordained in Joseph for a testimony. Thy saints shout aloud for joy. Praise waiteth for Thee, O God, in Zion! The streams of Thy river shall make glad the holy places of Thy tabernacles, O Most High!

In the Name of Him whose Day, by covenant, this peculiarly is,—Who is its Lord,—Who rose upon it,—Who, being risen, kept it again again while He showed himself alive after His passion forty days,—Who solemnised it to His beloved disciple amidst the solitudes of Patmos, —in His Name we make our supplications, and bring our honours, to Thee! May we rely upon His Atonement! May we perceive how His resurrection is a release from his undertaking as our Surety, is a proof of the acceptance which Thou hast stamped upon His Work of Redemption, is a victory over all His enemies. The seal is broken, O Jesus, from Thy tomb! The stone is rolled away! The guard has fled! Earthquake was Thy servant! And angels in their shining garments, honouring the spot where Thy Body lay, proclaim to Thy Church which stood without at Thy sepulchre weeping, the Triumph Thou hast won! Bless ye God in the congregations! Make the voice of His praise to be heard! He is greatly exalted!

We adore Thee that it is no question of our superstition concerning Jesus, who was dead, when we affirm him to be alive. Always would we show His dying that His life may be manifest in us. May we rejoice that He both died, and rose, and revived. Raise our affections to seek things above where He sitteth at Thy right hand.

Because He lives, may we live also! May we be saved by His life!

And now may the Holy Ghost be shed upon us. Let us feel that it is expedient that even Christ should make room for the Comforter. Give to us His blessed illuminations and aids. May He convince us of sin, of righteousness, of judgment. May He, the Spirit of truth, guide us into all truth. Through the sanctification of the Spirit may we be made inwardly and really holy. We wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith Jesus, ye have heard of me. Let it not be a day hence, but now may heaven open, and the Spirit be poured out from on high!

Attend with almighty efficiency Thy Word of grace wherever dispensed this day. May many run to and fro. Send by whom Thou wilt send. Let Christ be preached fully and distinctly and affectionately. Let the stewards of Thy manifold mysteries be found faithful. Let all ministers of the Gospel be apt to teach, in doctrine show uncorruptness, never be turned unto fables, watch in all things, keep the faith, exercise themselves unto godliness, take care of the church of God, be manifest unto Thee, and manifest also in the consciences of their people. Let their hands be sufficient for them, and be Thou a help to them from their enemies. Let

Thy Thummim and Thy Urim be with them. Large be their success. Make known by them Thy salvation.

Revive Thy work among all the churches of Christ. Establish a stronger foundation of principle, and a higher standard of excellence, among them. Return, O Lord, to the many thousands of Thy Israel. Awaken the spirit of prayer. May a more piercing cry of supplication cleave the heavens. May they keep not silence, and give Thee no rest. Let an intentness and an unwonted fervour distinguish their devotion. May Social Prayer be sedulously maintained and encouraged. Let the Sabbath school be every where the seed-plot of plants which Thou shalt plant. May instructors of the ignorant and teachers of babes offer themselves willingly. May the children of our crowded population be induced to attend. May wisdom and knowledge be the stability of our times, and the fear of the Lord our treasure. Nor suffer Thy word to return void. Let its immediate effects declare themselves. Redeem Zion with judgment, and her converts with righteousness. Make Thy people willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness: a progeny innumerable as the dew-drops of the opening morn. Bring to Thyself the masses of immortal beings which teem on every side. O that they

might join themselves to the Lord, and take hold of His covenant! O that the millions, around us, and stretching over the habitable earth, might be rescued from the misery which holds, and the destruction which threatens, them! Save with Thy right hand! For we are often tempted to entreat Thee,—Stay Thy power, arrest the onward flow of accountable existence, call not into being those who may for ever curse the hour in which they were born! Thou doest right. Thou only art good. What we cannot understand, we wait to learn, or would be willing not to know. But these our pleadings for the world, these our intercessions for all men, are agreeable to Thy will, are obedient to Thy word, are desired for Thy glory! Heaven shall therefore suffer our violence,—we will wrestle until we prevail!

We thank Thee for the comforts of the past night: may we forget the worldly business and care of the past week. Let us now, with humble foresight, divide this hallowed day into its proper engagements. May these be proportionate, and be resolutely pursued. Let each return from the temple to bless the household. Beloved of the Lord may we dwell in safety by Him: may the Lord cover us all the day long!

Grant to our relations and friends the fellowship of the Gospel. We seek their souls! May

we be wise to win them! For how can we endure to see the evil that shall come unto our people? or how can we endure to see the destruction of our kindred?

O sanctify this day to us, sanctify us to this day. May it shine forth the Sabbath, signalised with the best triumphs of religion that have ever blest our earth,—the fairest emblem which ever pointed to the Sabbath of Eternity!

Receive us, and hear us, for the sake of Him who on this day arose from the dead, because He could not be holden of Death. And to our God in Trinity of Persons and in Covenant of Purposes, be endless glory! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

LORD'S DAY EVENING.

O God! Since the first six days of time expired, Thou hast kept perpetual Sabbath. Thy day can never set, Thy rest never be invaded. Holy art Thou and holy is Thy habitation. Calm and placid is the light in which Thou dwellest, unruffled is the river which maketh glad Thy city, unclouded is the sun which no more goes down. All is quietness and assurance round

about Thee. And in heaven is the rest which remaineth for Thy people. There the angels who sang together over Thy completed work, still sing. And there the redeemed from among men enter into Thy joy. In returning and rest are they saved. Oh holy, serene, and inviolable, is the Sabbath which celestials hallow in Thy presence and observe to Thy praise! Sin never stained its sanctity, discord never marred its peace, infirmity never enfeebled its service, sorrow never dimmed its brightness, death never reduced its throng. They serve Thee day and night without ceasing. They stand without fault before Thy throne. They are perfect, lacking nothing. Fatigue and satiety they never know. Weariness hangs not on their eye, nor can their spirit faint. Long as eternity endures their song shall not die away.

And yet Thy Sabbath, O God, reflects the merit and the glory of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. He hath made peace in the high places. The heavenly things themselves are purified by His blood. Angels chaunt with men the anthem of atonement. Alike they adore the Victim in the midst of the throne. How then, Most Holy Lord, shall we seek fellowship with Thee but by means of that Blood which is the only pledge of reconciliation, which alone brings peace to the conscience here, which

gives to heaven its rapture and harmony, which on the glory of angels is the only defence, which in the deliverance of man is the only ransom?

We bless Thee for the Sabbath which is past: For Thy Word which Thou didst of old send prophets and wise men and scribes to indite, —which Thou hast ordered to be translated into our language and to be put into our possession, —which we would search for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. May we ever tremble at its authority, and bow to its inspiration. Sanctify us through Thy truth, Thy Word is truth. We bless Thee for Thy House. With the tribes of the Lord have we gone up hither. We have joined the great congregation. We have dwelt in the place where Thine honour dwelleth. We have found that to Thee belongeth mercy. How amiable are Thy tabernacles, Lord God of hosts!

We bless Thee for the appointment of an evangelical ministry, and that our teachers are not removed into a corner. How many thousands are there who are a sweet savour of Christ! How beautiful are the feet of them who publish glad tidings of peace! May we take heed how we hear, and give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. While the Spirit speaks unto the churches, while the Spirit and the

Bride say come, may we relent in genuine contrition, believe with our hearts unto righteousness, close with the overtures of Thy mercy, throw ourselves at Thy footstool, and find peace with Thee through our Lord Jesus Christ. Forbid it, O God, of infinite grace forbid it! that any of us, who in the midst of Thy courts have this day listened to the good news of the Gospel, should neglect so great salvation,—that any, who have professedly united in the prayers of Thy people, should experience what it is to have their prayer turned away from Thee,—that any, by whose lips Thy praise has been attuned, should be condemned to the wailing of eternal despair,—that any, who have been exalted to heaven, should be brought down to hell! Let none of us prove the horrible transition from the devotion of the sanctuary and the worship of the household, to the communion of the undone and the torment of the lost. Let none of us *trifle* with conviction, nor *dream* of a more convenient season. How precious is the redemption of our soul, and how soon may its only opportunity have ceased for ever!

Another Sabbath is fled! And with it how many privileges! What would our believing forefathers not have sacrificed for such invaluable blessings. When they fled as a bird to the mountains, they took their faith and patience

with them, nor did they forget the Resurrection-day. But how they sighed for the company of Thy faithful; and when they found brethren, how they thanked Thee and took courage! O that we were more mindful of the fellowship of the saints, put a higher value on the ordinances of social worship, and better improved the worship of Thy house! We have met the congregation of Thy redeemed, none forbidding and molesting us; we have sent up our voice with their acclamation of praise; our feet have stood in the midst of the city of our solemnities, that quiet habitation; we have heard words whereby we and our house may be saved. It has been a day of glad tidings! Out of Zion the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. May these inestimable privileges never rise in the judgment against us! May the anger of insulted Mercy never burn against us! May we never perish before the wrath of the Lamb!

Another Sabbath is fled! And with it how many responsibilities! We stand not where we did. We have received a large increase of favour from Thee. Thou hast sent unto us the great things of Thy law. Thou hast expostulated afresh with our stubbornness and indifference. We have heard Thy voice, Turn unto me, ye backsliding children,—Why will ye die,—Be ye reconciled unto God! How can we meet Thee

in the last day if we now count Thy message as a strange thing, and persist in slighting Thy grace! What patience and longsuffering dost Thou extend towards us. Thousands have never been blessed with so long a probation. Early were they summoned to decide, or to account for their indecision. We pray that the means of grace may never be aggravations of ruin, that the savour of life unto life may never be the savour of death unto death. Deeply would we revolve our obligations, remember how much more we owe Thee than when this day arose, and judge ourselves that we may not be condemned with the world.

Another Sabbath is fled! And with it how many consequences! A new impression is made on our character, as well as on our relations to Thee, O God our Judge. We may not be able to determine it, nor to bring it within our conscious notice: we may not be able to trace out the particular influence of these solemn hours and transactions upon our inmost soul. But Thou knowest us altogether. And we feel that each must be another man. We cannot have trifled with appeal and conviction without contracting more hardness of heart: or by our serious thoughtfulness and assent Thou hast made our hearts softer than they were. Let us follow the bearings of this day into eternity, anticipate

their effect upon our condition, and prove the hope of our calling so distinctly as to justly conclude, that an endless Sabbath awaits us and that we are thus meetening for it. Oh that the period now swiftly closing upon us, in its sanctified uses, may inspire us with more heavenly-mindedness here, and sweeten our song in heaven itself!

Another Sabbath is fled! And with it how many opportunities! How favourable was the season to repentance, solemn reflection, and deep self-scrutiny! What advance might we have made in personal religion! Why should we not have added to faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge temperance, to temperance patience, to patience godliness, to godliness brotherly-kindness, to brotherly-kindness charity? Had we availed ourselves of every occasion, would not these things be in us and abound? Must we not have grown in grace? Should not our progress have been the Sabbath-journey onward to the Celestial Temple? We mourn that we have been such slothful servants. We have been straitened in ourselves. We have wronged our own souls. Alas, too, we have not done the good we might have done to the household of faith. Have we declined no task, and hid no talent? Had we taught transgressors Thy ways, might not sinners have been converted unto

Thee? Can we clear ourselves of the charge of not caring for souls perishing around us? Deliver us from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of our salvation! Let not these be gratuitous, unavailing, lamentations. May we do works, and bring forth fruits, meet for repentance.

Another Sabbath is fled! And with is how many sins! Thou seest more evil in our best actions than we suspect in our worst. Who can understand his errors? Who can know the heart? But we have not only to deplore our infirmities and imperfections,—that depravity of nature which is so universal in us, and so little opposed by any contrast, that it is most difficult of detection, — we confess worldly and vain thoughts too tardily dismissed and too faintly resisted! We confess the coldness of even our attention, and also our too much utter unconcern. We confess that our hearts have felt most inadequately the love of God our Saviour. Eternity has been laid open and brought near to us, but scarcely has it awed our spirits. We have been almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly. Enter not into judgment with Thy servants, O Lord. If the vessels of the sanctuary must be purified with atoning blood, how much more should it be sprinkled on the people!

We bless Thee for these days of the Son of Man. They are our best times of refreshing from Thy presence. But bring us, O Lord, to the Sabbatism of heaven, the Holy-Day of Eternity. May all our present enjoyments be foretastes of the blest festival. May we be now in preparation for it. May we serve unto the example and shadow of Heavenly things!

We commit ourselves to rest, for these frail bodies weary by that which is the rest of the mind. May we see the morning light. Let duty be pleasant to us whatever it is. Returning to the world, may an atmosphere of piety invest us. May we be doers of the word and not hearers only.

Through Jesus Christ we make our requests and offer our adorations, and would now ascribe the glory due to Jehovah, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

THY praise, O God, shall be for ever in our mouth! We will offer it to Thee! We will show it forth to Thy creatures! It shall be continually on our lips! Before the gods we

will sing it unto Thee. It shall be of Thee in the congregation. We would make it glorious. Thou art the praise of all Thy saints. They are joyful in glory, still praising Thee around Thy throne! However dark the night of trouble they endure below, Thou givest songs in the night! However bitter their dying pains, they sing aloud upon their beds! As is Thy Name, so shall be Thy praise to the ends of the earth. Let our souls live and they shall praise Thee. And Oh when our mortal life shall close, let not our thanksgivings cease! To Thee be glory by Christ Jesus *throughout all ages, world without end!* How delightful to anticipate that never-ceasing work! To praise Thee as long as eternity! To find constantly unfolding glories in Thy character, as well as undying remembrances of Thy mercy, to justify and to inspire the exhaustless theme, the unwearying transport, of Thy Most Worthy Praise!

Yet how can we be heard or accepted when we presume to praise Thee for Thy mighty acts, and according to Thine excellent greatness? What can give our services any value or efficacy? Thy Name is dishonoured by our unclean lips. Thine altar is profaned by such unholy worshippers. Thou mightst pour on us Thy disdain:—Who hath required this at your hand? To what purpose is the multitude of

your sacrifices unto me? Bring no more vain oblations. Incense is an abomination unto me. —But our adoration is dear to Thee, for the sake of Thy Dear Son,—it can derive a worthiness from the Lamb Who was slain,—it shall delight Thee as it ascends a sweet savour of Christ!

Deep be our acknowledgment of vileness in Thy sight! We have imagined evil against Thee. We have multiplied our follies. We have been bent to backslide from Thee. We have fallen by our iniquity. We have eaten the fruit of lies. We have wrecked our peace, and sinned against our own souls. Still this were little, had not our guilt respected Thy Holy Law and Sacred Honour. Against Thee, Thee only, have we sinned! All other forms, all other directions, are lost in this chief enormity, this last aggravation! God be mercifnl to us sinners! Thou hast promised us peace, by acquainting ourselves with Thee, and by taking hold upon Thy strength. What wonders of mercy belong to Thee! Truly might we have apprehended that acquaintance with Thy purpose would but arouse our fear, and that Thy strength would crush us. Thou hast, however, so revealed Thyself, that to know Thee is life eternal! Thy strength so loveth judgment, that Thy power is unto salvation! May we believe Thy word,—with a

broken heart and a contrite spirit may we gaze upon the Cross,—may we cease to do evil and learn to do well,—sow to ourselves in righteousness, and reap in mercy,—break up our fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon us!

We recount Thy goodness in the comforts of the past night. Innumerable evils might have compassed us about. Our moisture might have been turned into the drought of summer. Our soul might have been sore vexed. We might have been weary with our groanings, and have watered our couch with our tears. The light of our eyes might have gone from us. At our casting down men might have been afraid. Blessed be the Lord, our Defence, our Deliverer, our very Present Help, our Guide even unto death!

And grant, O Lord, that these good things of life may not be overvalued by us, any more than ungratefully slighted. Thou dost not restrict true happiness to them. Thou dost often withhold them from those who are Thy delight and Thine excellency. Let them not be our portion or our snare. Let them not satisfy our hearts, or steal them away from Thee. Let it not be the rebuke of our eternal wail, Remember that ye in your lifetime received your good things! And may all our enjoyments be connected with

the sure mercies of Thy Covenant, may all our springs be in the Holy Mountains, may each rill and drop of pleasure proceed out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, may every good gift of Thy Providence be coupled with the perfect gift of Thy grace!

Powerfully impress upon our minds and hearts the testimonies of the Gospel; the faithful saying which is worthy of all acceptation; and especially the word of life to which we attended on the late Sabbath. May we be partakers of the Benefit: Let it come to us in much assurance. Let us give more earnest heed. Let the word profit us being mixed with faith,—yea, being engrafted, may it save our souls. Wherever the Salvation was preached, may the ignorant be instructed in its nature, the prejudiced be convinced of its truth, all be healed that have need of healing, and all kinds of the spiritually sick be made whole. Blessed Spirit! Thou only canst call the wicked to penitence, the unbelieving to conviction, the dead to life!

Remember our kinsmen who stand afar off, to whom our profession of religion is a reproach, who dwell at ease on the earth, who put off the evil day, who have not hitherto stretched out their hands unto Thee! We cannot redeem our brother, nor give to Thee a ransom for him, —for the redemption of the soul is precious, and

how soon will the opportunity of attaining it cease for ever! God of mercy! arise and rescue them who have often been reproved, but still harden their necks, lest they be suddenly destroyed and that without remedy!

May we think much of our departure out of this world. There is a time to die. All is fading here. Beauty consumeth away like a moth. The flower of Lebanon languisheth. May we regard our life as our pilgrimage toward eternity, only properly regulated as thus habitually determined,—all sorrow but an inconvenience, all pleasure but a help, by the way.

And now go forth with us, Thou the Leader and Commander of Thy people, and assist us this day in all the duties and under all the trials of our lot. May we be found resting in that lot at the end of our days.

We approach Thee, and adore Thee, and supplicate Thee, in the Name and through the Mediation on earth and in heaven of the Lord Jesus Christ! And to the Holy, Blessed, and Glorious Trinity, Three Persons in one God, be glory in the highest! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

THOU art terrible out of Thy Holy Places! Thou hast Thy way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of Thy feet! How wide-spread is the firmament of Thy power! Thou dost set all the borders of the earth! Thine eyes behold the nations! Thou standest in the congregation of the mighty: Thou judgest among the gods! The hearts of kings are in Thy Hand,—Thou turnest them as the streams in the south! They have no power except it be given to them from above. Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee,—and the remainder of the wrath Thou wilt restrain! Thou art our King of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth! The Kingdom is the Lord's!. The Lord reigneth!

With these impressions of Thy Providence and Thy Government, unite our hearts to fear Thy Name. We would see Thy hand in every event. Far be it from us to live without God in the world! And ever blessed be Thou, O Most High, that Thou hast revealed to us the efficacy of prayer. What honour hast Thou put upon it! How has it controlled the elements of nature, how has it interrupted the course and turned the menace of vengeance,

how has it had power with Thee and prevailed! And thus Thou teachest us that Thou art not far from any one of us. Thou dost earnestly remember us still. Thou waitest to be gracious. The door stands open. Yet there is room. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto Thee in a time when Thou mayest be found!

While we would exult in the warrant and privilege of prayer, believing that it availeth much,—may we remember and solemnly be convinced that no man cometh unto Thee, O Father, but by Christ. Further do Thou teach and persuade us that no man cometh unto Christ, except Thou drawest him. We need the Mediator to find a passage, we need the Spirit of supplication to inspire the disposition, for our prayers. Humbled by the proofs of such need, let our hope be stayed on the Atonement and Intercession of the Lord Jesus,—cause us to pray always in the Spirit. So would we glorify Thee as God! Thy face, Lord, will we seek!

At the close of this day, we raise our pillar of help again, and write upon it that the Lord is our helper. All that we know of pleasure, all that we taste of joy, we derive from Thy beneficence. Thou hast made every sense the medium of delight. The exercise of every

faculty Thou dost constitute a means of gratification. Thine is the cheerful light, the endless beauty, the choral music, of this lower world. The day is Thine. Nor less are Thine these evening shades. They too have their charm. They mark no withdrawment of Thy favour. They are not darkened by the shadow of Thy turning. The darkness and the light are both alike unto Thee,—and both are alike to us, if we be Thy children, bringing sweet vicissitudes of activity and repose. Neither sun nor moon shall smite us. The pestilence which walketh in darkness Thou shalt dissipate, the arrow which flieth by noon-day Thou shalt avert! Keep us through these approaching watches,—in peaceful slumber or holy meditation,—or may these be blended,—thus while we sleep, our heart waketh!

We would humbly implore the Pardon of the Gospel. We pray for the same earnestness in seeking it now, as when we sought it first. Should there be any of our little assembly who are not convinced of sin, who have not come to the Saviour, may we, who have first trusted in Christ, be heard of Thee for their salvation. We need it still, even as they. Let the Finger of the Great High Priest, who has already sprinkled His blood on the Mercy-seat, sprinkle it on our every conscience. Let all of us find, or

renew, peace with Thee! Let us have faith to be healed! May the mystery of faith be held in a pure conscience. Change each heart, or carry on its sanctification. Give us the evidence, the witness, the joy, of our present acceptance with Thee, and of our actual conformity to Thine image. Let not our life hang in doubt as to the glorious issue, nor our soul be kept in suspense as to its safe and holy state. Strike off the fetters which bind it, and bring it out of prison. Set it in a large place. Now may we commence a heavenly delight, a joy that is full of glory, the new song of eternity.

We thank Thee if ordinary mercies are associated, in our case, with that special favour of which Thy children are the objects, and with that filial appropriation which is one of their sweetest tasks. For them Thy sun arises and Thy rain falls, because all things were made by Christ and for Him. Thou givest meat to them who fear Thee, because Thou wilt ever be mindful of Thy Covenant. Grant that this may be our blessed lot, so that our most common benefit may suggest to us our election of God, may illustrate our absolute interest in the redemption which is by Christ Jesus, may flow to us borne onward by the precious stream of the Cross.

Pity, as Thou only canst pity, our unrege-

nerate kindred and acquaintance, for Thou in Thy pity canst redeem. We would have compassion on them, as Thou hadst pity upon us. Impart to them the true riches, the health of the soul, the bread of life, the garment of salvation, the name that cannot be plucked up, the inheritance which fadeth not away.

We pray for The Church, that her health may spring forth speedily, that she may be a praise in all the earth, that her sons may come from far and her daughters be nursed at her side, that the abundance of the seas may be converted unto her and the forces of the Gentiles come unto her!

Lord! Thou hast been favourable to us! Still look Thou upon us, and be merciful unto us, as Thou usest to do unto those that love Thy name.

To the Sacrifice of Calvary, to the Advocate at the Right hand of the Majesty on high, we would now turn our grateful and confiding look! Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto Him Who sitteth on the Throne,—unto the Lamb Who was slain,—unto the Spirit Who still saith to us, Come!

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

TUESDAY MORNING.

SHALL we not fear Thee, O Lord! Shall we not tremble at Thy presence, Who hast placed the sand for the bound of the sea, by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it; though the waves thereof toss themselves yet cannot they prevail, though they roar yet can they not pass over it? Shall we not fear Thee, O Lord, who hast set fast the mountains, being girded with power? Shall we not fear Thee, O Lord, who hast garnished the heavens, and rulest all their hosts? These Thy works praise Thee as they did from the beginning. They are Thine ordinances still. They loudly as ever declare Thy glory. They unroll an unfading demonstration of Thine eternal Power and Godhead. The sea owns Thy sway. The hills only bow to Thee. The stars hold on in the harmony of their courses. All,—all, is order, unmarred beauty, unwasted power, primæval law,—save our revolted and rebellious heart. We only have degenerated, subjecting every lower creature, however unwilling, to vanity. What evil have we done! Thy brightest image defaced in us, we have warred with the illustrations of Thine excellency every where. Our ungodly hearts would have loved to be without God in theworld.

For ever blessed be Thy Name for the discovery of an Atonement, and a Reconciliation. In that Atonement Thou art honoured, Thy Law, Thy Character! By that Reconciliation Thou dost bring us nigh unto God, Thy Favour, Thine Image, Thy Presence. By it may we now approach Thee: be not near in our mouth while far from our desires. Let us not be held back on this side Thy footstool, but touch the Mercy-seat!

Thou hast renewed our life and all its varied powers by this morning light. Thou hast given us rest from labour and weariness. Thou hast watched over our sleep. We might have watered our couch with tears. Our eye might be consumed with grief. Our dwelling might have been a heap of ruins. We might have had mournful proof that none can keep alive his own soul. The Eye to which we looked the last ere we closed our own, we have at earliest waking found as intently and kindly fixed upon us still: and we have felt, and continue to feel, that underneath us are the everlasting Arms.

And we thank Thee for all these domestic charities, the family altar, the consideration of one another, the interchanges of affection, the ways of pleasantness, the relief of sympathy in pain and trouble, the warrant of confidence, sincerity and truth. We pray Thee that in this

sphere we may desire our best usefulness. Here may we do the good, and show the example, which lie in our power. Let us feel a sufficient motive for the most simple, unnoticed, acts of piety. In the assurance of Thy favour let us find a recompense of reward. Let us not quarrel with our circle, however humbly contracted. Let us not wish to exercise ourselves in great matters, or in things too high for us. Let us not wander from our place.

O Lord! make us partakers of true religion, that only good and heritage for the soul! No wonder that the eyes of men, though looking around this universe, are never satisfied. That which is wanting cannot be numbered. It is but one mighty incapacity to give us rest and joy. Our days are sorrows, and our travail grief. But while walking in Thy fear and love, in cherishing Thy favour and communion, we see what is that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven, all the days of their life. Whom have we in heaven but Thee? there is none on the earth we desire beside Thee! Make this Thy chosen abode! O turn unto us and have mercy upon us. Let religion have here its best encouragement, its securest shelter, its amplest scope. Make it the dwelling of Jacob! The tabernacle of Joseph!

Direct and support us in the engagements

of this day. Keep us in Thy hand, where are all Thy saints. Let us cultivate the fellowship of Thy people, that the righteous may compass us about. Grant the continual dew of Thy blessing. Cheer us in each task. Support us in each trouble. Let not our enemy triumph over us. May our witness to religion be so distinct, and our illustration of it so just, that we may need no letter of commendation to the love of Thy people, nor even to the respect of Thine enemies.

Of the increase of the Saviour's government let there be no end. Let idol after idol fall. Let heathen lands welcome the glad tidings of salvation. May Thy servants be set over their cities, and the saints of the Most High take the Kingdom, and possess it for ever, even for ever and ever!

Bend on our friends the regards of infinite mercy. Where an unconcern to religion is betrayed, where a too well-grounded fear exists that they are ignorant and out of the way, let us be heard of Thee on their behalf. For our brethren and our companions' sakes, suffer us to plead with Thee!

To Thee, our rest, we would return, keep us near Thy side, let no harm befall us, direct and guard all our steps.

We make our common supplications unto

Thee, and will praise Thee for ever, in the Name of Thy Well-beloved Son! To God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be honour and blessing for ever! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

Thou, O Lord, lookest from heaven: Thou beholdest all the sons of men! From the place of Thy habitation Thou lookest upon all the inhabitants of the earth! Thou fashionest their hearts alike; Thou considerest all their works! We now seek Thy presence, Thine attention, Thy favour. We call upon Thee for help. We approach Thee to magnify, and not merely to supplicate, Thee. Our petitions shall not only be dispread at Thy footstool, but our heart shall send forth its song of grateful praise. Rejoice the souls of Thy servants; for unto Thee, O Lord, do we lift up our souls.

Thou art in Christ! else were this notice of Thine eye, this inspection of our doings, most frightful to us. But Thou art plenteous in redemption, and of great goodness. Thou hast vindicated, in the Atonement by the Cross,

Thy right to pardon. Spirits, pure or evil, cannot arraign it. Thy Name cannot be challenged for any connivance at sin. Thou art clear when Thou pardonest as well as when Thou judgest. Hide Thy face from our sins, and blot out all our iniquity. And add to this grace of pardon, the grace of sanctification. Renew us in the spirit of our mind. Let us not regard iniquity in our heart. In our spirit let there be no guile.

Adored be Thou for all the comfort of our lot. Thou hast not removed the staff of bread and the stay of water from us. Thy hand clothes and sustains us. Thou dost instruct us and teach us in the way which we should go. How should we trust in Thee! Still show Thy marvellous kindness, O Thou that savest by Thy right hand them who put their trust in Thee from those that rise up against them. May the remembrance of Thy former mercies, may the experience of Thy present goodness, constrain us to love Thee, and to devote ourselves to Thy service. Can we be otherwise than Thine? Can our hearts refrain from loving and serving Thee?

Through another day Thou hast kept us, and supplied our wants. Our lives are spared, and our enjoyments are prolonged. Thou dealest bountifully with us. Thy goodness endureth

continually. By the very asylums of misery around us, we learn what our condition might have been! We might be sick, nigh unto death! Our body might be withering beneath agonising pain! Reason might be dethroned! Want might have overtaken us! Parents might have needed alms! Children might have been orphans! When we look, too, on the laws and avengements of Society, we learn how Thou hast protected us from the thief and the murderer, from wicked and unreasonable men! Mercy has compassed us about. We would see Thy hand in all. There is no king saved by the multitude of a host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.

We would pray that we may seriously reflect upon our responsibility. O Lord! let it be remembered by us in all the relations and scenes of our life. Let us not presumptuously set down what we owe Thee in any sum inferior to the truth. Let there be no attempt to reduce and disparage it. And may the Spirit of holiness not only present these views, but act, through their medium, on all our active powers. To do good and to communicate, to live for public and universal ends, to promote as far as possible the welfare of the world,—let these be our high and inspiring purposes. May we strive together for the faith of the Gospel. Dispose

and succeed us to extend it. May we shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life. May we think seriously how soon it may be that the Lord shall come and reckon with his servants.

Save us, O our God, from a worldly spirit. Forbid an avaricious spirit from influencing us. May we seek, far more than men generally seek secular profit, the real wealth, the true riches, of the soul. Let us consider that godliness with contentment is the largest gain. And shouldst Thou summon us from all below, may this appear and prove to us the best of acquisitions, while our dying lips shall pronounce that to die is gain. Equally do Thou preserve us from a conformity to the world. Let us not court its favour by any compliance with its standards and maxims. Impress upon Thy people all their peculiarity. Save them from a frivolous degeneracy. Let there be no forsaking in the midst of the land!

We ask of Thee to keep in our minds a remembrance of our short and uncertain sojourn on earth. Cause us to think and feel that if a man live many years and rejoice in them all, yet that the days of darkness shall come, and that they shall be many. Let us think of that glory which cannot descend after us, until we are fired with a nobler ambition. Let us think of the

wealth which we cannot retain from the demands of death, until we lay up a good foundation for the time to come. Let us think of that pleasure which withers at the sight of the grave, until we find a joy which nothing can take from us! Let us think of that life which is so frail and uncertain, until we lay hold on eternal life.

O Lord God! Bless our kindred and friends. Let not this be a family of strangers. Let not our foes be of our own household. May all our connections, near and remote, be bound in the bundle of life with the Lord their God. May we stand together on the shore of eternal safety, without one castaway!

Let Thy favour peculiarly shine upon Thy people. We love to think of them as subsisting among all kindreds, tongues, and tribes. We love to recognise them, of various communities, holding the Head. We love to embrace Thy Whole Church. And forget not the converts already taken out from the Gentiles. Give them the help of Thy countenance. Let the nations be shaken. Let the kingdoms be moved. Make not our Missionaries to turn back from the enemy. Make them not a byeword among the heathen. May the Hand of the Lord be with them, and show its lighting down!

Close our eyelids this night in peace. Keep the city. Be our habitation. Let ministering

spirits be sent forth to minister to us. May we be far from oppression, and from terror. Be Thou round about us to deliver us. And with the morning may our powers of body and mind awake, and beneath a new consecration be devoted to Thy service!

Hear us for the sake of Jesus, Who is not ashamed to call us brethren! Who liveth to make intercession! Who appeareth in Thy Presence for us! And to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, be equal and endless honours. Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

THE Eternal God be our refuge, and underneath be stretched the Eternal Arms! There would we hide! The fury of the Oppressor, the power of the Enemy, cannot harm! Disease cannot infect, Death cannot destroy! Blessed is our substance, accepted are the works of our hands! Thou wilt not suffer our foot to be moved! Thou wilt preserve us from all evil, Thou wilt preserve our soul! There is none like unto the God of Jeshurun, who rideth upon the heaven in our help, and in His excellency on the sky!

The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our refuge!

But may we remember that there is no place of sanctuary for sinners but beneath the Cross of Calvary. That is the glorious high throne of Thy Mercy. May He who was lifted up draw us to Him. May we be reconciled by Him, and be gathered together in one, even in Him. Ah, *here* is peace for *our* distracted consciences! Here is pardon for *our* aggravated crimes! Never let us distrust this foundation: nor reject the Son of Thy Love. Never let us be unmindful how necessary is an interest in His redemption: nor let us bear to remain without the abiding of eternal life in us. Give us an union with Him as the Head of all spiritual influence, a subjection to Him as the Head of all legislative authority, and a participation of Him as the Glorious Head of His suffering and pilgrim Church.

May the Spirit of the Lord be upon us! For our minds and our affections are by nature utterly depraved. They are entirely estranged. They tend away from Thee who shouldst be the centre of their desire. They revolt more and more. Bring us back to Thy Favour and Image. Lead us in the ways of righteousness for Thy Name's sake. Let us not forget Thy commandments.

To Thee we look for protection during this day. Many a hand of ungoverned violence might be raised against our person, many a false tongue might traduce our character,—envy, cruelty, and all the turbulent passions of man, might break loose upon us,—unless the wrath were restrained. Thou sittest King for ever! Thou stillest the noise of the people. Whatever the devices of the heart, Thy counsel stands. Thou rulest in the midst of Thine enemies. Thou canst make our enemies to be at peace with us. How safe are we, though in the presence of our enemies! Should we fear continually every day, as if they were ready to destroy? Thou art our strength and our shield! If the sea roar, Thou canst divide the waves. If the fire rage, Thou canst forbid the smell of it to pass upon us. Thou canst turn the counsel of the most subtle into foolishness. Thou makest the devices of the people of none effect. If God be for us, who can be against us?

May we this day have much of the power of religion on our souls! Let not sin have any dominion over us. Prevent our tampering with any evil. Keep our hearts from gathering iniquity. Give unto us strong consolation, and good hope through grace. Impart the rich satisfaction of knowing that we are right with Thee, that we are in our proper station, that we are

doing Thy blessed will. Let simplicity and godly sincerity be our governing motives. Be ours that great peace which is only known to them who love Thy law, and their holy superiority whom nothing can offend.

Whether, O Lord who providest for us, our daily supplies are more easily or more arduously obtained, whether rich or poor, we alike would trace them from the source of Thine inexhaustible bounty. If the fruit of labour, Thou dost nerve our arm: if the reward of traffic, Thou dost increase our gain: if the effect of competency, Thou dost secure those riches from flying away. All cometh of Thee! It is Thine apparel we wear, Thy bread we eat, Thy dwelling we occupy. Renew Thy mercies to us. And while we thank Thee for this loving-kindness, grant unto our souls all spiritual blessings, blessings suited to their nature and coextended with their duration.

Save us from an undue attachment to present things. Let us not seek them with a worldly avidity, nor hold them in a worldly estimation. May we so regard them, as to think cheerfully of leaving them. Suffer not the idea of being dispossessed of them to depress us. Not for a moment let us cease to love Thee better than Thy gifts. May we be so intent upon our great destiny, so reaching forth to the

prize of our high calling, that nothing of the present may divert or delay us in pursuing it; that all events may be kept in subordination to it; that we may judge not eternity by time, but time by eternity.

Impress upon us constant remembrances of our mortal end. We must soon quit this scene of anxious care and strife. Our course is hastening to its close. Oh may this thought lead us to redeem the time, to consider our state in Thy sight, to prove our own selves. And then do Thou, in that dread hour, forsake us not. Draw us through death to Thee, for Thou canst of the depth make a way for Thy redeemed to 'pass over.

Arise and have mercy upon Zion. Prosper the universal Church. May we rejoice with her, and be glad with her, because we love her. Give her increase and enlargement. May a nation be born at once. May the earth be made to bring forth in one day. Let all Missionaries be guarded by Thy power, and directed by Thy wisdom! Clothe them with authority as Thine ambassadors sent unto the heathen.

Blessed Father! Think in mercy upon the partakers of our blood, and all our family connections. Especially we implore Thee on behalf of the ungodly among them. We beheld the transgressors and were grieved, because they kept

not Thy word. May they no longer refuse to hearken, nor pull away their shoulder, nor stop their ears, nor make their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they hear the law of the Lord; that it may not come to pass that, as He cried and they would not hear, so when they cry, He shall not hear!

And now again we bless Thee for former mercies: we bless Thee for these which we now enjoy: and we importune Thee for guidance and preservation through this day. Make its ending favoured as its dawn, and each ensuing hour a progression of piety, enjoyment, and peace.

Our Priest is on His Throne! We therefore ask in faith, nothing doubting. And we ascribe to the Lord Jehovah, the Loving Father, the Gracious Son, the Communing Spirit, everlasting glory! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

God of our life! Thou mightst have formed us insensate matter, as our body will be when dead because of sin! Thou mightst have given us

the life of the worm, or of the lowest animated creature! Thou hast fearfully and wonderfully made our body, adapting it to the soul. Thou hast endued that soul with intelligence, religious capacity, and immortality. Thou hast made us a little lower than the angels. We draw near unto Thee to bless Thee for such a rank of being, and for all its amazing endowments.

But with what shame ought we to confess, and would we deplore, the depravation of our nature. We have defiled the Temple which once Thou didst inhabit, and us mightst Thou destroy. We have turned our spirits from Thee, and against Thee. Thou hast said, I am broken with your apostate heart, which hath departed from me. Thou hast said, Ye have wearied me with your iniquities. How have we corrupted our ways! How have we perverted Thy gifts! We have wrecked an existence bestowed for the kindest and noblest ends! This also is vanity. This also is a lamentation, and shall be for a lamentation.

We cover our face with shame, and dare not look up. But there is forgiveness with Thee! Christ hath given Himself for us a sacrifice and offering unto Thee for a sweet smelling savour! Thou lovest Him because He laid down His life that He might take it again. He was delivered by Thy determinate counsel.

It pleased Thee to bruise Him and to put Him to grief. We observe with adoring wonder and gratitude Thine agency in this Redemption. Oh may we now come to Thee by it, and receive all the peace which it can supply to the wounded conscience and stricken heart!

Melted by the view which we thus obtain of Thee reconciling the world unto Thyself, and giving Thy Son for us, may we devote to Thee our very self. We own Thy claim upon us. We are Thine. May we do nothing to frustrate Thy grace and quench Thy Spirit. May we keep our vessel in sanctification and honour; and may the soul within be a priest unto God and to His Christ. May each be a living sacrifice! On both let Thy signet stamp, Holiness unto the Lord!

Be pleased to behold and to accept us as we now bend at Thy footstool. We as a family, from our place, would worship Thee. "It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God." But how especially is it incumbent on us to bless Thee for domestic peace and safety! Thou couldst curse our blessings. Thou couldst pollute our gifts. Thou mightst send blight and mildew on our vine and figtree. Thou mightst overturn our border.

Our light rejoiceth. Our fountain is blessed. Our house stands. Thou maintainest our lot. May these benefits be given to us as to them of whom it is said,—All things are for their sakes, All things are theirs, All things work together for their good. May our merchandise be that of wisdom, and in getting understanding let us acquire a gain that is better than of fine gold! Thy blessing maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow therewith!

While we have thanked Thee for the high order of our being, let us learn from the inferior creatures around us! Let us reprove our sluggishness by going to the ant! May our false and ungrateful independence be shamed by the ox that knoweth its owner! Shall the stork in the heaven know her appointed times, and we know not the judgment of the Lord? When we behold the fowls of the air, may we trust that Thou wilt feed us! And while all Thy creatures confess Thy power and care, may we from their instincts and habits learn lessons of diligence, order, thankful obedience, and cheerful hope!

We would intercede in behalf of all who are afflicted. Could we pierce the abodes around us, what poverty, disease, and bereavement, might be disclosed to us! Want raises its cry, and affliction sheds its tear. Be the Judge of the

widow. Take them, who are forsaken of father and mother, up. Regard the prayer of the destitute. Hear the groaning of the prisoner. Execute judgment for the oppressed. Preserve the strangers. Deliver the poor and needy. Raise them who are bowed down. Comfort all who mourn.

Grant, O Lord God, that Thy face may not be set against this family. May true religion here find its abode. May it influence every inmate. May we mourn apart for family sins. But let us belong to the Family of Thy chosen, —to that House of which, however reproached, Thou art the Master, and all the pious and the sainted are the Household. Give our portion and assign our task. Stamp an absolute aim and direction of usefulness on all our pursuits.

Encourage and unite the company of the faithful, the congregation of the poor. Let our affections of brotherly-kindness expand towards all who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, both theirs and ours. Oh that we might not dispute among ourselves in our way to heaven!

Inspire in all the families related to us, and in each member of them, true and heartfelt religion. May they acknowledge Thy mercy, and hear Thy rod. Give to them a firm decision, and may they hold their profession without wa-

vering. Willingly may they suffer reproaches for Christ's sake. May they go without the camp. Let them not be afraid of faces. Let not the contempt of ungodly families terrify them.

May we sleep in security, and rest in peace. Be a shield to us. Calm our thoughts and feelings. Let us lie down on our bed contrite for sin and assured of forgiveness. May we think of death, and as serenely as we regard our sleep. Let us look to the morning of the Resurrection as undismayed as we await to-morrow's dawn,—when the body sown in weakness shall be raised in power!

We have no ground of confidence, no door of hope, but in the Atonement and Intercession of Him who was crucified on the Cross. But we know that our Redeemer liveth. Hear and accept us through Him,—while to Him, Thyself, and the Spirit, be a new song for ever! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O Lord God of our salvation, we have cried day and night before Thee! Let our prayer now

come before Thee, and accept the voice of our praise. Justice and judgment are the habitation of Thy throne; mercy and truth go before Thy face. Thy goodness never ceases towards us. It endureth continually. We sleep, we wake, beneath Thy smile. Thou art the lifter up of our head. Thou art the glory of our strength, and in Thy favour our horn is exalted. We dwell quietly in our land, and are preserved peacefully in our habitation. Our heart trusted in Thee, and we are helped: therefore our heart greatly rejoiceth, and with our song will we praise Thee. We might have been counted as those who go down into the pit. We might have been consumed!

And we bless Thee that, while we approach Thee, there rises a Voice of Atoning Blood, echoed by the Intercession of Christ Crucified. That Voice is heard above the claim of Thy broken law, and can overpower the upbraidings of our conscience. Let it alone be heard. Let ours be lost in it. Let it swell upon Thine Ear with all its majesty of tenderness and power!

Lord! if all our desire be before thee clearly and acceptably, Thou hast suggested and purified it. For we know not what we should pray for as we ought. What a humbling confession this! That such guilt, such depravity, such wretched-

ness, as ours, are not accompanied with a conscious feeling! What a self-accusation that the sense of our wants should be insufficient to dictate our petitions! This is the ignorance which is in us. This is the blindness which has happened unto us. May Thy Holy Spirit make plain to us our need, and truly enforce it. Taking of the things of Christ and showing them unto us, may we be convinced of their importance and indispensableness. May we perceive in their provision, our destitution: in their grace, our demerit: in their purity, our defilement: in their blessedness, our woe. In the contrast of Christianity with us may we discern its adaptation. From its height let us infer our low estate, from its remedy our disease. Oh then shall we pray, how freely and how fervidly, when we know ourselves!

We would come unto the Fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness. We would see in it an adaptation and an infinite sufficiency. Thither would we fly. Forgive us our sin, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Regenerate and sanctify us. Hold us fast, or we shall fall. Let us imbibe no error, contract no habit of evil, be caught in no hostile snare. Deliver us from each insensible deviation into worldliness, and the love of worldly pleasure. May we walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Adoring Thee for the blessings of the night, —for its calm and protection,—as also for the blessings of the morning,—for its health, its food, its pleasing light, its cheerful refreshment,—we supplicate Thy continued blessings with these successive hours. In business, at meat, amidst recreation, may we set Thee always before us. Whatever is our duty, let us never decline nor postpone it. Whatever are our temptations, let us withstand their first onset. May we maintain our profession without wavering. And grant that a good conversation may mark the purity of our principle and the steadiness of our decision.

Continue Thy goodness to us for time to come. Health and comfort may quickly desert us. There is no enjoyment which we can arrest and detain. It is Thy loan, nor can we complain when Thou dost recall it. Still as favours, as things given us richly to enjoy, we would seek, as far as may be good for us, and as far as the few and evil days of our pilgrimage can admit, their perpetuity.

Still may there be always something before our mind, which we love better and desire more. In these is not the life of the spirit. Our life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which we possess. In Thy favour is life. May we be found in Christ, who is all and in all.

If we win Him, how mean is every other loss! If He be our friend, how light is the sacrifice of every other love! If we be united to Him, we need not reck the dissolution of every other bond!

Smile upon Thy people of every name. Save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever. Thou knowest Thy sheep, and art known of them. Be with them in their sufferings, their adversities, and that rebuke which shall soon be taken away from off all the earth. May they glorify Thee in the fires. May the trial of their faith be much more precious than of gold. Let their patience have its perfect work, their love abound yet more and more, their faith gather strength and their hope ardour!

Be very favourable to the government and the civil interests of this Country. Bless our Sovereign in person, and in the administration of the Royal Office. May the throne of these realms be established in justice and mercy. May this nation, with which Thou hast dealt as Thou hast not with any other,—exalted to heaven, full of the favour of the Lord,—among which is Thy Kingdom, bring forth the fruits thereof. May it know the day of its visitation. May it become a royal priesthood of praise and holiness.

Speak peace to the heathen! Let the Desire of all nations appear! May men be blessed in Him! Bless our Missionary brethren who labour in Pagan lands. Let none be weary, nor stumble, among them: none slumber nor sleep: neither suffer the girdle of their loins to be loosed nor the latchet of their shoes to be broken! Think too, O God of Abraham! of the branches broken off from the Ancient Root! Since we were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree, may these, which are the natural branches, be grafted into their own Olive Tree!

Keep Thine Eye upon us this day, and may eventide find us with praising voices, and on bended kness, around this Domestic Altar in renewed acts of worship.

It is Christ that died, yea rather that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us! Therefore we plead, and cannot plead in vain! Thine is the glory, O Holy Trinity, for ever! Amen.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

"Our Father," &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

BE merciful unto us, O God! be merciful unto us! for our soul trusteth in Thee; yea, in the shadow of Thy wings will we make our refuge! It is our guilt which needs Thy mercy. All other want is caused by it and included in it. God be merciful to us sinners! Humble us to feel our occasion for such Mercy. Hearing of it, may we rejoice. Let no pride blind or inflate our hearts. We have debased ourselves to hell. Degraded we are to require Thy forgiveness, but not to receive it. What honour dost Thou put upon us! With what dignity dost Thou invest us! That we should be called the children of God! That we should be invited to the fellowship of Christ Jesus! That the Kingdom should be prepared for us from the foundation of the world! May these inconceivable favours and privileges be conferred upon us. May we abide in Thy Tabernacle for ever: let us trust in the covert of Thy wings.

Be it deeply impressed on all our hearts that the veil of the Mediator's flesh must be rent, that the blood of the Great High Priest must be shed, to open a way by which sinners may reach and please Thee. Let us remember that it is by means of death! Let the Lamb of

God who taketh away the sin of the world, be the Paschal Lamb for this household, the Lamb according to our family. May His blood be sprinkled, not on our lintels, but on our souls!

We bless Thee for all the goodness which Thou hast laid up for us, and which Thou dost abundantly lavish upon us. Thy paths drop fatness. Our life is much set by in the eyes of the Lord, who delivereth us out of all tribulation. Thou hast but to be angry, and we are troubled. Our souls will then have forgotten prosperity. But continue Thy loving-kindness to us. With temporal things we shall soon have done, yet Thou knowest that we have now need of these things. And through Thy free, rich, Grace bring us at last where we shall hunger no more nor thirst any more, where danger is for ever escaped and sorrow fled!

Look benignly down upon this family. Be the God of all who constitute it. May each soul say unto the Lord, Thou art my Lord! May it be an enclosure filled with the planting of the Lord! May it be an ark of quiet and peace, though the sea roar and be troubled! May it be a lodgment of heaven upon earth, a home in which angels may be entertained, and God, even our own God, may dwell!

Grant that religion may adorn our character and lives. Let it never be to us a form of effort

and constraint. May it breathe from us and around us. Let it be as a part of ourselves. Let its reflection and expression be simply easy. May we keep it as a pleasant thing within us; may it withal be fitted in our lips. May it shine upon us as a Divine Nature!

Whatever talents Thou hast entrusted to us, help us to employ aright. May we occupy until Thou shalt come. May we be faithful in the least. The cause that we know not, let us seek out. Let us not say, Behold we knew it not. Be another heart in us, to acquaint ourselves with lonely and unsuspected woe! to go about doing good! to work benefit to our neighbour! to weep with all who weep!

Be pleased to strengthen us for temptation and trial. The battle will soon be against us, if Thou do not deliver us! Our strength is so small that we must faint in the day of adversity, unless Thy power rest upon us! Vain is the help of man. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is on the Lord his God. Give us this meek, firm, dependence on Thee! So shall we not be afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked when it cometh.

As we must needs die, and be as water spilt on the ground which cannot be gathered

up again, so let us consider our latter end. May we think of the mighty, and all their company and all their multitude round about their grave. May we think of our lovers and friends and acquaintance whom Thou hast put far from us into darkness. Oh what territories does Death command! What spoils he gathers! Soon we shall leave our place. It shall know us no more. It shall be filled, while we are forgotten, by them who come after us. May we still live to God in the spirit. May we be with Christ. May we be present with the Lord. Devise means whereby Thy banished ones be not expelled from Thee!

Remember Thy Cause in the earth. What shall one answer the Messengers of the nations? Thou hast founded Zion, and the poor of the people trust in Thee. Thou hast planted the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, that Thou mightst say to them, Ye are my people! May we be zealously affected in this good thing. For this Thou reignest. Gather Thy saints unto Thee, them who have made a covenant with Thee by sacrifice. Gather them out of all nations. Say to the North, Give up! and to the South, Keep not back!

And help us to remember, that important as our domestic offices are, nothing can be a substitute for personal religion. Let none of us

fail of the grace of God. May we seek the retirement, and pursue the exercises, fitted to secret piety. May we prevent the dawning of the morning, and cry, hoping in Thy word. Let our eyes prevent the night-watches, that we may meditate in Thy word. May all give themselves unto prayer.

Convert our kindred to Thee. If they have ever said to us, Get you far from the Lord, may our prayer be that they may be brought nigh to Thee by the blood of Christ.

Pardon our iniquity, and visit not our sin. Wash us and we shall be whiter than snow. Cause us to hear joy and gladness. Fill us with sincere, believing, repentance. Set our faces heavenward.

Our souls wait ye only upon God, for our expectation is from Him!

We give thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, to God even our Father, and to the Lord the Spirit! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

THOU the Mighty God, even Jehovah, hast spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the

sun! We obey Thy summons, we would wake up our powers, we would wait for Thee more than they who wait for the morning. Our bodies have found repose, our souls would now seek rest in blessing and serving Thee. For this, save for the weakness of our frame and the depth of our corruption, is untiring satisfaction and uncloying delight. It is sin which wearies and exhausts. In Thy presence there is fulness of joy, and the joy eternally renews and multiplies itself. In glorifying Thee, our being is exalted; and we obtain a gladness in walking before Thee unto all well-pleasing, which worlds cannot purchase and worldlings cannot know!

We come unto Thee by Jesus Christ, Who is able to save to the uttermost. We render all the glory of our salvation to Him who trod the wine-press alone. But for His sacrifice Thou couldst not accept an offering at our hand. Our blood must have been mingled with our sacrifice, save for His Atonement. We are encouraged to draw near, also, by the belief of His Intercession. How animating is it, to follow Him within the vail, to see Him clothed down to His feet in Priestly vesture, to see His hand trickling with the Blood which He sprinkles on the Mercy-seat,—and waving the censer filled with His much Incense which mingles with the Shekinah!

Finding ourselves in Thy Presence, we would begin our worship with the giving of thanks. Glory be to Thee, O God! We once more experience Thy bounty and Thy care. Our substance is not cut down. Our soul is not weary of our life. All Thy paths are mercy and truth. Thou art the glory of our strength. Thou openest Thy Hand, and we are filled with good. When brought low, Thou hast helped us. Thou hast saved us out of our distresses. Thou hast delivered us from going down into the pit. Thus will we bless Thee while we live. Our mouth shall show forth Thy righteousness and Thy salvation all the day, for we know not the numbers thereof!

We implore the forgiveness of our sins. And such is Thy holy glory in pardoning, and such the omnipotence of Thy grace, that we may strangely plead: *For Thy Name's sake*, pardon our iniquity, *for it is great.* This is our twofold argument! The consistency of Thy method, the desperateness of Our need! Put true religion into our hearts. Renew us in the spirit of our mind. May the New Birth grow up unto Christ in all things, and reach unto the perfect stature of His fulness. May we be as in His stead now that He has gone unto the Father. As He was, so may we be in the world. Holy Spirit! shine upon our under-

standing, regenerate our entire moral nature, implant each hallowed motive, and raise Thy temple in our breast!

And may we be a holy, a devoted, family! With the generation of the upright, may it be blessed. Let our delight be in the excellent of the earth. Let us not know a wicked person. Let not him that worketh deceit dwell in this house: nor let him that telleth lies tarry in our sight. May no one of our number harden his heart and corrupt his way. Shall there train here a child of wrath, a son of perdition? Here shall Satan find a prey, and Destruction prepare a vessel? Shall any be plucked out of this habitation? Oh that not a jewel may be wanting, to complete the crown of this Household's salvation!

Graciously assist us this day in all our obligations. Let them be never tiresome to us on account of their repetition. As the journey to his Feasts was more delightful to the pious Hebrew the more frequently he travelled the ways of Zion, so, though we know the path of daily duty well, let it become increasingly pleasant to us. However inconvenient in itself, may we strive to honour Thee, and bless Thee for the occasion it affords us of well-doing. With us let the only business and the only motive be, Serving the Lord. To work for Thee in Thy

vineyard is to be not far from that Garden into which Thou didst put Man to dress and to keep it!

Be very near to us, O God, in our every circumstance this day. Save us from the greediness of gain, from the love of command, from the torment of suspicion, from the self-will of obstinacy; from anger, and susceptibility of offence; from pride, whether of poverty or of station; from all elation of gifts and talents; from envy and evil-speaking; from working any ill to our neighbour; from brooding over any unholy temper or aim. Let the same mind be in us which was also in Christ Jesus. Let us walk as he walked. Set us in the way of His steps.

Suffer not the Enemy to have any power over us. Grant that we be not drawn away of our own desires and enticed. Let not sin have any dominion over us. May we be unspotted by the world. May we have a good conscience. May we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

Do good in thy good pleasure unto Thy Church, and may the set time to favour her arrive! Holy One of Israel! be in the midst of her! Help her, and that right early! Often are we perplexed. We look for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and

behold trouble. Lift up Thine Ensign to the people! Give the word, and great shall be the company of the preachers! Let them not follow their own spirit, seeing no light! Having Thy word, may they speak it faithfully!

Prepare us for our last day! This may be it! May it be spent in Thy presence, and devoted to Thy glory; so shall it be well with us, whatever should be the termination,—the living sleep or the sleeping death!

For the sake of Christ, with Whom alone is Merit and Claim, we meekly supplicate favours so great and utterly undeserved,—and we offer to the Father, the Saviour, and the Comforter our praises now and for ever! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

THIS day, O Lord! distinguished with mercies, and signalised with blessings, has cried aloud to us, and still cries aloud, Be ye thankful. Thou hast not left Thyself without a witness of tender compassion and bounteous care, filling our hearts with joy and gladness. Thou hast been mindful of us: Thou hast blessed us! And we return

this evening to our home, and surround our altar, preserved by Thy power, kept by Thy mercy, crowned with Thy goodness. Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens: and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds!

And Thy loving-kindness has been of old towards us. We never knew the absence of it. It ministered to us by parental yearning and service, when we had not heard Thy name. Numberless were its indications that burst upon our earliest notice. From the mouth of babes and sucklings Thou didst perfect praise. Our infant lips blessed Thee. Thou hast enlarged our steps under us, that our feet did not slip. Thou didst send from above and take us. We learnt, when children, the fear of the Lord. We wonderingly asked: Where is God our Maker? But these things we did not keep from our youth up. The evil of our hearts quickly appeared. We soon forgot Thy works. We sought out many inventions. Yet Thou didst not forsake us. Thou hast given commandment to save us. Hitherto hast Thou helped us. And when we are old and grey-headed, O God, forsake us not: cast us not off in the time of old age: forsake us not when our strength faileth.

Oh it is only by the faith of Jesus, by His spotless obedience, by His precious blood,

by His priestly intercession, that we may come boldly to the Throne of grace! We have no righteousness, no title, no recommendation. But there is a robe which covers our deformity. There is a merit which secures our acceptance. We plead the Name which turns weakness into strength, the Excellence which can impart to others its comeliness, the Incense which makes all things sweet!

We implore Thee that the influence of the Holy Ghost, taking for His instrument the words which are spirit and life, may so melt the heart of stone within us, so transform all the tastes and habits of our inmost souls, that holiness may charm us by its beauty, obedience secure itself by the pleasure it inspires in us, and piety elevate us by its experience of a great peace and a great reward. Not our resistances can avail, the work must commence within. Set our affections against whatever is evil. Turn away our eyes from beholding, and our hearts from cherishing, it. May we oppose it in mortal strife. And may it thus be seen that being born of God, we do not commit sin, because we *cannot* commit sin. Let that incapacity be traced to our disaffection and loathing against it.

Constitute our most familiar frame of mind that of *seriousness*. How tremendous are the issues of life! What a path we travel! What

an end we await! Shall we, O Lord, trifle amidst such solemn scenes and prospects? Shall we live as though we should live always? Shall we behave ourselves unseemly upon the verge of eternity? Let us consider that the time is short. Dispose us to pass the term of our pilgrimage here with fear and trembling. May we at death not be brought into desolation, as in a moment; nor be utterly consumed with terrors. Familiarised with that solemn event, and prepared for it, may we abound in hope, and be joyful in glory: may our peace be as a river, —though the swellings of Jordan break over us, —fuller, stronger, than all the proud waters which go over our soul.

Grant to us, O Lord, an entire fruition of all evangelic blessings. Cast our sin behind Thee, remove it far as east from west, let it not be mentioned against us any more. Annul all condemnation. Sanctify us wholly. Complete Thy work. Perfect that which concerneth us. May there be an obliteration of every sentence which threatened us: a blotting out of the hand-writing which was against us. May the last rudiment of our fallen nature be destroyed in us. Where sin abounded, let grace much more abound. Say respecting us: I have mercy upon them, and they shall be as though I had not cast them off!

May all of this household be warned to flee from the wrath to come, fly to the ark prepared for saving it as doves to their windows, with full purpose of heart give themselves unto the Lord, never be entreated to leave Thy people, never be terrified by any adversaries, never be turned aside after Satan! May none of us be satisfied in seeming to be religious, none be the living sepulchre, none be the spiritually dead. Let us all think of our accountability, let us beware of the many stripes. Endow us with a name and a place better than that of sons and of daughters!

We would plead with Thee for all the ministers of Christ. Inspire them with compassion for souls. May they feed the Church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood, the Church of which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers. May each pastor think of that hour when the Chief Shepherd shall demand of him: Where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock? May the idol shepherd tremble lest the sword be upon his arm, and upon his right eye,—that arm which it shall clean dry up, that right eye which it shall utterly darken! Remember Thy Congregation which Thou hast purchased of old. May Thy people preserve the order and fellowship of the Gospel. May they continue in the present truth. May

they be zealous of good works, and be careful to maintain them for necessary uses. Above all, may they love one another!

Go forth with our Missionary army. Let it be a band of men whose hearts Thou hast touched. May Thy right hand and holy arm get for them the victory. Give them a banner because of the Truth. Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for their help. Deliver them not over to the will of their enemies; for false witnesses have risen up against them, and such as breathe out cruelty. Subdue the people under Thee! May all dominions serve and obey Thee!

May we now take rest in sleep. And while the slumber of the wicked is as the man that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth down upon the top of a mast,—let our repose be gentle as the infant's dream and holy as the prophet's vision.

Blessed Jesus! Thou hast taught us to ask the Father in Thy Name. We feel the privilege! We own Its power, we love Its sound, we plead Its merit! And now be glory to the Father, Who hath borne witness concerning the Son,—to the Son, Who is the Author and Finisher of our faith,—and to the Spirit of Truth! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

THOU, O Lord! art nigh unto all them that call upon Thee, to all that call upon Thee in truth! Thou wilt fulfil the desire of them that fear Thee! Thou also wilt hear their cry, and wilt save them! They are the most honoured who are distinguished among them that call upon Thy Name! And it is good to sing praises unto our God: for it is pleasant, and praise is comely. Thy Name alone is excellent. Thy greatness is unsearchable. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord!

Where, O God of holiness, can Thyself and sinners meet? On what common ground may a Being so dread, and creatures so vile, face each other? Is there a point of contact? Thou hast taken Thy station, and we approach Thee. Thou dost speak, and we attend. Thou drawest nigh unto us, to Thee will we draw nigh. Thou hast left Thine honours to the vindication of the Cross, to its protection we commit our souls. In its Atonement Thou art glorified, and by its Atonement we would be saved. Here, O Lord God! Thou art ready to forgive, Thou waitest to be gracious, Thou dost incline Thine ear, Thou dost abundantly pardon!

We adore Thee for the discoveries of Thy

Word. It is righteous altogether. It is true from the beginning. Concerning Thy testimonies, we have known of old, that Thou hast founded them for ever. May it be our delights, the lamp to our path, our honeycomb of sweetness. Let us have respect to it continually; may it do good to us; may it dwell within us very richly as the word of truth—as the word of grace—as the word of reconciliation—as the word of wisdom—as the word of life. May we search the Scriptures whether the assertions of men be so. May we by them become wise unto salvation!

Convince us, O Holy Spirit! of sin. Lay us low in our own esteem. Bow down our neck alway. Clothe us with humility. Then only shall we truly pray and repent. Then only shall we believe with our heart unto righteousness. Let us feel that we are the sick who need the Physician! Let us feel that we are poor and miserable and blind and naked! Out of the *depths* may we cry unto Thee, O Lord! We renounce our many inventions. We fling from us our righteousnesses as so many filthy rags. Beautify us then, being the meek, with salvation. O Jesus! be surety for Thy servants. Thoroughly plead our cause. Lamb of God! Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us! Lamb of God, Who

takest away the sins of the world! grant us Thy peace!

Grace for grace we ask of Thee, because Thou givest more grace. May we not only have access into Thy grace as a state of favour, but may our hearts be established by grace. May we be Thy workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works. Let Thy life be strong in us. We seek not to the divers washings, but to the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. May that which is within be transcribed on our conduct, and may we abide in Him without Whom we can do nothing.

Receive our adoring acknowledgments for the necessaries and conveniences which we enjoy as a family. Thou hast not dealt so with many. For great is Thy mercy toward us. Truly Thou art good to us. Our souls, wait ye only upon God, for our expectation is from Him! Thou hast preserved us during this night. We asked life of Thee, and Thou givest it us. Thou keepest us as the apple of the eye, Thou hidest us under the shadow of Thy wings. With favour dost Thou compass us as with a shield. The Lord is our stay. We will offer to Thee the sacrifices of righteousness, joy, and praise!

Bind us to Thy service. Consecrate us for evermore. Take us and engrave us as a signet.

May we yield ourselves to Thee. Let us feel that this subjection is our best and only liberty. How large, and how even, the place of such service! We would desire no higher lot, no superior good, no sweeter joy, than to know and feel that our bodies and our spirits are Thine; than with Thy servants on earth and in heaven for ever to serve Thee!

Bless us, O Lord! this day in our different spheres and occupations. Draw us not away with the wicked and with the workers of iniquity. As for us, may we walk in our integrity. Keep it in our mind, that evil communications corrupt good manners. Let us not presumptuously and wantonly approach the limits of temptation. Let not the World spot us! Let not the Wicked One touch us! Let a wide interval stretch between us and all evil. Let not our feet, though held, have well nigh slipped. Let us not be ready to halt, though pursuing. Let not enemies hope for our fall, nor friends stand in doubt of us. Lowly but firm, may we walk in the Valley of Decision.

We cannot but remember those who are bound to us by ties which Thou dost originate and approve. May they be added to the Lord, then shall they be *ours*. We conceal not from ourselves that they are all adjudged by Scripture to be, children or aliens, within or without, of

the world or not of it, for Christ or against Him, possessed of the good part or found of the contrary part. Let us not for a moment think of their state as neutral, nor deal with it as such. O confirm and sanctify the natural bond between us. May all we be brethren, because Christ is our One Master! May we be members in particular of the Body, because the Head of the Body is Christ! Be it our aim and prayer to walk orderly, in all things to live honestly, to reveal the influence of true piety over our whole spirit and deportment! May domestic religion be uniform, and give light to all our house!

Is not the harvest of the world ripe? Son of Man! Enthroned upon the white cloud,—wearing the golden crown upon Thy head,—wielding the sharp sickle in Thy hand! The Voice from the Temple calls Thee, caught and prolonged by the prayer of Thy waiting Church: Thrust in Thy sickle and reap!

Let us read, with serious deliberation, the sentence of death that is in us. Let us remember that we are always indebted to it. May it be to us an expected end. Nor let us shrink nor sorrow. Is it not the *victory* which Thou givest to us? Is it not rather the *day*, than the *night*, which cometh?

Shut is Thine ear against the sinner who counts the Blood of the Covenant as an unholy

thing. Thine eye is averted from his case. His prayer is sin. Thou knowest him afar off. This Atonement is all our hope! Not our faith, not our pleading, but the Atonement only! And now asking all, and presenting all, in the Name of Him Who offered it,—Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as Head above all! Now, therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious Name! Amen.

"Our Father," &c.

"The Lord bless us," &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

Thou God! Who only art good! Who dost exercise loving-kindness in the earth! The eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest Thy hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. Thou dost warrant us to reason, in respect of irrational creatures, that in point of Thine endowment of us, we are much better than they. Thou dost further justify us in concluding, and command us to expect, that if Thou feedest and clothest them, much more wilt

Thou feed and clothe us. We stand out as the objects of Thy special regard! Thou hast given us power over them! Thou dost magnify us, and set Thine heart upon us. Thou dost visit us every morning, and try us every moment. And we would bear witness of Thy care. Had we been the exclusive favourites of mercy and pity, we could not have shared them more largely. Whatever the gaze of Thine Eye, never has it been withdrawn from us; whatever the employment of Thine Hand, never has it wearied in doing us good. Thou performest the thing that is appointed for us, and many such things are with Thee! Because Thou hast been our help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will we rejoice! Because Thy loving-kindness is better than life, our lips shall praise Thee!

By Jesus, Who suffered without the gate that He might sanctify the people by His own blood, we would offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually. We glory in His Cross. There rest we the salvation of our souls. We confess the merit of the Atonement to be as necessary for our *present* access to Thee, as at the first when we sought for mercy, or as in any intermediate time. Nothing but the Righteousness of Christ,—performed, endured, offered, pleaded, by Him,—lies between us, and the heat

of Thine indignation! But in Him Thou art well pleased! Him Thou hearest always!

Assist us by Thy Spirit! Oh what discoveries can He make of Christ to the mind! How tender the emotions He can awaken! Show us, by Thy fellowship, Thou Blessed Comforter! our need of a Saviour, enlightening the eyes of our understanding in the knowledge of Him. Bring us to His feet, constraining us to acknowledge Him as our Lord and our God. By Him do Thou teach us to receive the Atonement. Do Thou expel the old leaven. Cast out the old man. Heal the troubled conscience. Convert the inmost soul. May we fear to grieve Thee! And if ever our thoughts of Thee can be irreverent, let us stand in awe, dreading any approach to that blasphemy which is alone inexpiable of all iniquity, transgression, and sin. Through Thy power may we abound in hope! May our joy be in Thee! Thou Who in Thine Office, as well as Person, art Holy,—fill, by Thine indwelling in us, all our capacities with Thy holiness. Abide in us for ever!

It is a good thing to show forth Thy Faithfulness, O our Benefactor! every night. But this evening deserves a more excellent sacrifice. We close in it another week. Its morrow is the Christian rest. We escape from the oppression

of the enemy. We would compose the countenance of ease. We would not look back. Now let the Sabbath hours begin. May we worship only a little distant from the gates of the daughter of Zion! Let us anticipate the void of Joseph's tomb! And ere it is yet day, may we know the Scripture that He must rise again from the dead, and that He is risen!

But, O Lord! we would earnestly enquire of ourselves whether we be Thine. Do we worship Thee in the Spirit? Are we Thy children? Belong we to Thy redeemed and holy family? Is the unpardoned among us? The unrenewed? Do any of us only seem to be religious? Sympathise, Blessed Jesus! with our fears, our godly jealousies! For of Thee is it written: Neither did His brethren believe in Him!

And now we would enlarge our prayers for our fellow-worshippers in the sanctuary to which, if permitted, the morning shall conduct our footsteps. Be in the midst of us. May we be as the green-olive tree in the house of our God. Forgive our feebleness and foolishness. Give testimony to the word of Thy grace. Uphold the Ministry of the Gospel. Be with Him who shall feed and edify us. May we receive the Spirit by the hearing of faith. From his lips let many learn the way of salvation. Impress upon us the justice, the fitness, the necessity, of remem-

bering him and his work always in our prayers. May he preach so fully and so explicitly, that it may be as though Christ himself had come preaching peace. May the Son of God, Jesus Christ, be preached the very same as He was by the apostolic ministers, not in a contradictory manner, but in Him may it be Yea. Helpless are Thy best appointed servants, save when Thou girdest them. Thou must cause them to triumph. Their weapons, through Thee alone, are mighty. Standing in Christ's stead, from Him must they derive not only all their authority, but all their success!

Lighten our conscience, O God of Reconciliation! of every burden, purge it from every stain, heal it in every wound! Speak peace to it. May it be void of offence. May the taint of all the dead works it has ever touched, pass away from it. Renew our inner man. Establish our hearts unblameable in holiness.

Let God arise and his enemies shall be scattered! So overcome and abolish the systems of imposture, idolatry, and superstition, in the world. But may the people be subdued *unto Thee!* Cast them down in mercy and not in anger! Through the greatness of Thy power may Thine enemies submit themselves! Usher in the scenes of prophecy and establish the ages of peace. Now while the calm of this evening is around

us, now while we await the dawning of the Sabbath, we would make intercession for all men! Hast Thou made all men in vain! Shall the cry of their misery always ascend to Thee! Shall destructions and fightings never cease? Shall this world still disown Thee? Lord! we believe, and we pray in faith! It is not abandoned to perpetual desolations! Its wound is not incurable! He shall come Whose right it is! All the earth shall worship Thee, and shall sing unto Thee; they shall sing to Thy Name!

Grant to us the repose which we this night require. Let not our sleep break from us. Let not our spirit be troubled. With the morning may we awake sweetly, as if an angel touched us! Of all the days of the Son of Man on earth, let none have been so blessed, so solemn, so consoling, so useful, as that shall come forth, from the tabernacle of the sun, to prove!

If a man sin against the Lord, who shall entreat for him? Of Thine own heart, Thou, Who art Love, hast ordained a Mediator. Thou hast anointed Him with the oil of gladness,—in Him Thou beholdest the Express Image of Thy Person, and Thy Soul is delighted! He delights to do Thy will, O God! In His Name we make known our requests unto Thee, through Him we offer our spiritual sacrifices, while we ascribe to Jehovah, God blessed for ever,—The

Father, The Son, The Spirit,—The God of Abraham, the God of Abraham's seed who are heirs according to the Promise,—the Kingdom, the Power, the Glory, and above all, Salvation, for ever and ever! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever! Amen.

The Lord bless us, and keep us; The Lord make his face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us; The Lord lift up his countenance upon us, and give us peace.—Numb. vi. 24—26.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.—2 Cor. xiii. 14.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

AND

THANKSGIVINGS.

(It is supposed that these will be introduced, according to the taste and designs of the Worshippers, into the preceding Forms. As they are thus intended only as intermediate petitions, they open and close with equal abruptness. Pronoun and Number can be suited to the circumstances.)

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION IN JOURNEYING.

We would pray to Thee, O Lord! for Thy Care over them who are going forth from this abode to tarry a while elsewhere. Save them from every danger to which they may be exposed in their travel. Now God Himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct their way. However severed from them, and they from us, by space, may we be alike in Thy hand and in Thy heart. The Lord watch between us and them, when we are absent one

from another. May it be a prosperous journey by the will of God!

THANKSGIVING FOR JOURNEYING MERCIES.

We bless Thee, O Thou Who preservest man and beast, that Thou hast fulfilled our petitions. Once more we meet around our domestic altar. Thou hast restored such as were separate from their brethren. Thou hast been with them, and kept them in the way, and they are come again to their house in peace. Oh when our pilgrimage of life shall cease, may there be a purer greeting and a happier re-union in the mansions of our Father's house! where only is unchanging habitation! where we shall go no more out!

PRAYER FOR HELP AND SAFETY IN CHILD-BIRTH.

O Thou Who alone canst comfort us in all our tribulation, killing yet making alive! Behold and pity in this domestic crisis. We seem to hang between life and death in our deep sympathy for Thine handmaiden, now suffering the

woe of being first in the transgression. May she be saved by the Child-bearing of Immanuel! For unto us that Child was born! Unto us that Son was given! Spare the mother's life. Give her living increase. We would hail the young immortal. Let our pity melt, and our supplication travail, for the child of wrath, the little one which can be only shapen in iniquity. Jesus! suffer it to come unto Thee! Thou Who didst lie in the manger! hear its cry and pity its suffering! Father in heaven! it is not Thy will that it should perish in its present helplessness. Let it be raised up with a vigorous constitution of body and of mind. May it be a child of the Promise. Long may the parents, and they whom thou hast given them, be preserved to each other,—every added voice learning and striving to bless Thee!

THANKSGIVING FOR THE SAME.

Bless the Lord, O our souls! and forget not all His benefits! Thou hast relieved our suspense, Thou hast disappointed our fear. We cried unto the Lord, and He heard us! The sorrows of death were near, and this might have been the house of mourning! What things

might have befallen us! What a void might our eye have felt! We cannot praise Thee as we would,—we shall never praise Thee as we ought!

PRAYER ON THE DEATH OF AN INFANT.

Thou, O God of the Covenant! hast brought in a breach upon us. Thou didst increase us, and the babe came forth as a flower. We asked it of the Lord, and long as it lived we would have lent it to the Lord. We are dumb, we open not our mouth, because Thou didst it. Thou hast taken it from us, and its spirit now sees its Father's face. It is of such as compose and beautify the kingdom of heaven. It is in favour with God. Angels minister to it. None offend nor despise the little one. It is well with the child. May we go to it, though it shall not return to us!

PRAYER FOR THE CONVERSION OF CHILDREN.

We would kneel at Thy footstool, O God of our fathers! earnestly supplicating Thee on be-

half of these the younger members of our family. Let not a reproach of youth stain them. May they from childhood know the Holy Scriptures which are able to make them wise unto salvation. Decide their hearts for Thee. While their hearts are yet tender, may they humble themselves unto Thee! May they seek Thee early and find Thee! May they be as plants grown up in their youth, and be Thou a dew upon them! May they be planted in the House of the Lord! May they be holy not only by their dedication, but by being renewed through the power of the Holy Ghost. With some of us, the day is far spent. For us the evening shade is drawing on. May these more than supply our place! May they be pillars in firmly supporting Thy cause! May they be burning and shining lights of divine instruction and quenchless zeal! We would hang upon Thee, and devote to Thee, the offspring and the issue!

PRAYER FOR THE CONVERSION OF SERVANTS.

WILL it please Thee to remember those who serve in this household! In the spirit of him who prayed unto our Incarnate Lord, Heal my servant,—we would sincerely entreat the spiri-

tual welfare of our domestics. May it be a subject of eternal thankfulness to them that they were directed to tarry under our roof, and assist in our affairs. God of Eliezer as well as of his master Abraham! bless them and mercifully regard them. With good-will may they do service as unto the Lord and not unto men. May the good, they derive from their situation, be reflected on us. In their integrity, and holy influence over us and all, may we have our reward. We would share all our religious privileges with them; that there may be one law to him that is home-born, and unto the stranger who sojourneth among us. And while we remember our relative differences and respective duties, let us anticipate the scene in which all such social distinctions shall for ever terminate, and all Thy servants shall serve Thee!

PRAYER FOR A CHILD LEAVING HOME TO ENTER UPON THE DUTIES OF PUBLIC LIFE.

We would commend to Thee such of our number as may be about to leave the shelter of our roof, and to embark in the necessary business of Social existence. Thou dost require us to provide things honestly in the sight of all men, and to

work with our hands that which is good. God of the wandering but praying Jacob! the fear of whose father was always on him,—bless him who now goes to meet eyes and voices no longer tender like those on which he has hitherto looked and hung. God of Bethel! Inspire his vow. Answer him in the day of his distress, and be with him in the way he goes. Pity and support the heart of the stranger. Give him favour in the sight of them among whom he shall dwell. God before whom our fathers did walk! God who hast fed us all our life long unto this day! The Angel who redeemed us from all evil! Bless the child! Prosper him as Thou shalt see it meet. And in future time may we welcome his visits, if remote be his abode, not as a prodigal returning to his home, but as a dew from the Lord! Let him not seek great things for himself, but live to honour his family, to serve his generation, to glorify Thee on the earth, to leave a store of holy influence and stirring example to those who shall come after him. We send him forth,—the child of our vows,—the child of our prayers,—we tremble,—we weep,—we make supplications for him. Fail not him, nor forsake him,—for no moment, at no step, of his course,—Thou Who only canst make him stand!

PRAYER FOR THE LAST EVENING OF THE YEAR.

THY Years shall not fail! Having brought us, O Lord! to this solemn crisis of our earthly history, having rolled away another large section of our time, we would pause and consider. We spend our years as a tale that is told! What forbearance dost Thou show toward us! Why cumber we the ground? What could have been done more to Thy vineyard that Thou hast not done in it? We have been slothful and unprofitable servants. We are covered with shame, and struck with consternation, at the review of the period which is well-nigh fled! Truly there should be a remembrance again made of sins every year. Be merciful unto us, be merciful unto us, O God! Pardon our iniquity, transgression, and sin! And shall we forget Thy goodness? Thy stream of bountiful supply has never failed. Thine eyes of pity have been fixed upon us from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year. How precious are Thy thoughts unto us, O God, how great is the sum of them! What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits? Let us not soon forget Thy works! Let us feel that if we pervert Thy mercies, Thou renewest in these changes witnesses

against us! Still thinking of our vileness, we can only exclaim: Do not abhor us! We look to a Sacrifice not offered year by year, continually, but which has been slain once for all!

PRAYER ON NEW-YEAR'S-DAY MORNING.

It is of the Lord's mercies, that we are not consumed! The living, the living, we will praise Thee! What shall we say unto Thee, O Thou preserver of men? What a wreck do we survive! We are a little remnant. We are left but a few of many. What graves have we filled up along this wilderness. Lover and friend hast Thou put far from us. We have no continuing city. We often walk in a solitary way. And now we wonder and adore, that our forfeited lives have been ransomed, that we have not been given over to death, that we have not been called to our account. Another period of our life commences! But let not the false presumption mislead and blind us that the passage from one year to another is any pledge of continued survivorship, any security of living from one day to its to-morrow. Suffer us not to think that Thou must let us alone this year also. Oh to hear the voice of this solemn

season! Thou seemest like the Householder who went out early in the morning to hire labourers in his vineyard. Lord! we poor unworthy labourers would agree with Thee! Lead and we will follow, command and we will obey. And though it can never be reckoned to us of debt but only of grace,—yet shall we henceforth receive wages, and gather fruit unto life eternal. We leave our times,—years,—moments,—in Thy Hand! There we commit our bodies, our souls! There we entrust our families, our interests! There we deposit our all! We offer ourselves anew to Thee, and now hold our yearly sacrifice here for all the family! Here again we lay hold on Thy covenant, and set to it our seal!

PRAYER FOR THE RECOVERY OF A PARENT.

Thou Who liftest up such as be cast down! Thy Hand is heavy upon us, and beneath its weight we look to Thee to sustain and cheer us! Thou before Whom it is good and acceptable that we learn to requite parents, mercifully regard the beloved Head of this family. Let not this sickness be unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified thereby!

Raise up the sufferer, and spare him to our entreaties and affections. We sink at the thought of the blank which Thou mightst set among us. Have mercy on him, and not on him only, but on us also, lest we should have sorrow upon sorrow. But still would we say: Thy will be done! If it be Thy will to call him hence, may he abound in hope, may his spirit rejoice in God his Saviour, may he be ready to be offered, may he bequeath to us the twofold blessing of his life and death. May he be supported in the last pang of human love, by Thy promise,—and amidst our deep sobs of grief may we realise the same,—Leave thy fatherless children, and I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in Me!

PRAYER FOR THE LIFE OF A CHILD.

Thou gavest, and Thou hast the right to take away! We dispute not with Thy justice or Thy mercy. But Thou hearest prayer! In the day of our trouble we seek the Lord! The prayer of faith has saved the sick! In the Name of Him who heard the father's entreaty, Come down ere my child die! Who said unto the mother, though a Canaanite, supplicating

for her daughter, Be it unto thee even as thou wilt! *we* implore Thee to succour our suffering child that we may still press it to our bosom, that we may train it in the way in which it should go, that in its developed mind and holy decision our hearts may rejoice, even ours. We nevertheless bow to Thy will. Thy will be done. Should it please Thee to remove it from us, we would not murmur, we dare not repine. Thine it always was. And our prayer is that Thou wilt send from above and take it, that Thou wilt redeem its soul from the power of the grave and receive it, that the child may be caught up to God and to His throne!

PRAYER IN ANTICIPATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

O LORD! remember us who shall keep this Holy, as a Festal, Day. Thou dost spread the Banquet of Love! Thou hast bidden the guests! We are not worthy to gather the crumbs which fall from the children's table. For once we thought its fruit, even Thy meat, contemptible. Glory to Thy grace, not only for its overtures, but for its operations. We now hunger and thirst for these blessed provisions. May Jesus be made known to us in the breaking of bread.

May we discern the Lord's Body, and the Lord's Blood. Let us keep the Feast with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Let it be the Communion of His Crucified Humanity. And may it be also the Communion of Saints. May we be One Body, and have fellowship one with another. Oh how many have sat at this Board, and partaken of this Entertainment, who now eat and drink in Thy Kingdom. We succeed to their places. Soon we shall make room for others. May we now, in heavenly sympathies, come to the spirits of just men made perfect! May we, when our place at this sacred table shall know us no more, be called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb!

PRAYER FOR THE NEWLY MARRIED.

LET Thy benediction rest upon this Votive Pair! May the God who formed Adam from the dust, but Eve from Adam, knit together these Thy servants as one flesh and as a common spirit! May the man be a son of Abraham in his faith: the woman a daughter of Sarah in her meekness. May they instantly rear for Thee a Domestic Altar! May they and their house serve the Lord! May they walk

in all Thy commandments and ordinances blameless! May their hearts be given to Thee supremely! May they make Thy will and glory the rule and end of their affection and their being! Should occasion arise in which human love might interfere with claims the highest and most sacred, suffer them not to confer with flesh and blood! Should the necessity occur of proving that they love Jesus their Lord more than husband and wife, let them evince the spirit of a holy, unwavering martyrdom! May the Word of God and Prayer sanctify their all! So may their time be spent! So may their substance be consecrated! So may their family, shouldst Thou increase them with children, be disciplined! Long may they be spared to each other,—prospered in their basket and store,—blessed with all spiritual blessings,—their souls in health,—the promoters of each other's piety, the bearers of each other's burden, the helpers of each other's joy! walking hand in hand toward their Home in Heaven! For come it will, when this Bridal shall be turned into mourning; and when, instead of this present joyance, there shall be weeping,—the shroud,—the bier,—the grave! Prepare them for it! May they die daily! May they be found ready! Give to them the victory over the sting of death and the bitterness of separation! At the earliest

cry, may they go forth to meet the Bridegroom! May they dwell for ever in the intimacies of heavenly fellowship,—their spirits renewed by a birth of grace and glory,—beyond the reach of imperfection, bereavement, and decay!

ON FRIENDS ABOUT TO SEPARATE.

We bless Thee that we have a good hope that we are One! Adored be Thy Name for the communion of saints! We have the like precious faith! We interchange our hearts! Our souls have fellowship! We thank Thee that we may indulge our partial friendships. Thou dost suffer us, as our Holy Exemplar did, to choose the bosom on which we may most fondly lean. Look down upon us now that this immediate exercise of our affections must close. We part for different spheres and duties. We bid farewell to each other in the Lord. Thou didst behold with compassion the disciples kneeling down on the shore of Tyre, taking leave one of another. Think upon us amidst the grief of this hour. We commend each to Thee and to the Word of Thy grace, which is able to build us up, and give us an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. Oh for a place

among them who never shed the tear of separation! Here we meet to part, may we but part to meet where we shall part no more!

PRAYER DURING THE TIME OF EPIDEMIC DISEASE.

In Thine Hand, O Lord! our breath is! The vital air, Thou canst fill with health or load with taint! Thou hast caused a fearful visitation to fall upon us. All faces gather paleness. The pestilence walketh in darkness. By a mysterious track it comes upon our land and the dwellers therein. There is a great cry. The dead is in many an house. Beauty withereth, and strength faileth, before its baleful blight. If it be Thy blessed Will, save us from the calamity. Let not our number be broken by it. Let it pass harmless by us. Put a period to its devastations. Say to the destroying angel: It is enough, Stay now thine hand. Keep us in the calm and cheerfulness of a quiet confidence. May we regard it as a warning to be found ready. If it be the mortal messenger to us, let us think of it as that manner of death by which we shall glorify Thee. Let us experience, if not the Passover of Providential exemption, the

Passover of dying Mercy. If the cloud be dark, let us be only parted by it to be carried up into heaven! Now that Thy Judgments are abroad in the earth, may the people learn righteousness!

PRAYER FOR HARVEST.

SHOULD we ask, Where is the God of Judgment? Thou mightst assert Thy power, and inflict Thy vengeance, in blight and mildew. We might call the husbandman to mourning. The famine might be sore in our land. With Thee are all the ordinances of heaven, and the influences of every season. Mature the fruits of the ground. Reserve unto us the appointed weeks of harvest. Let our garners be full, affording all manner of store. May the land resound with the song of the reaper, and the gleaner follow him not in vain.

PRAYER UNDER MERCANTILE EMBARRASSMENTS.

THOU dost often in Thine anger, O God! against a sinful people speak concerning it to pluck up

and to destroy. From Thee, more directly or mediately, proceeds distress of nations, with perplexity. There is no counsel against Thee. In vain shall there stand up to mitigate Thy wrath and to stay its consequences the prudent, the ancient, the mighty man, the counsellor, the eloquent orator,—potsherds all! Thou dost shake every earthly confidence beneath us! Men's hearts are failing them for fear, and for looking after those which are coming on the earth! Regard us in the present exigence and crisis of public traffic. Open unexpected sources of prosperity. Cut off complaint from our streets. Arise and deliver us for Thy Mercies' sake. Give healthy wisdom to the national mind. Save us from that greed of gain, that wilfulness of speculation, by which these difficulties are so greatly precipitated. May our godliness be with contentment. How truly do they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare! How often do they who covet after money err from the faith, and pierce themselves through with many sorrows! So far as we are affected with this actual state of things, may high and holy principle be seen in all our dealings. Let no difficulty, no lure, turn us aside from our integrity. Let us live in all things above suspicion. Let Christian distinctiveness now be seen and proved. Oh what a lesson dost Thou teach us

all, how uncertain are riches! May we seek the prize of a higher calling, and the consummation of a nobler good! May we have bags which grow not old, filled with the true riches which rust cannot corrupt, which thieves cannot steal, which cannot take to themselves wings nor fly away! Let our hope be in heaven! May we lay up treasure there! And when we meet with disappointment and vexation here,—may our desire be quickened and our affinity be promoted, for that better country where alone is enduring substance, and quietness and assurance reign for ever!

FOR A FRIEND AT SEA.

Thou sittest upon the Flood! Thou stillest the noise of the Waves! Thou gatherest the Winds in Thy fist! We commend to Thee our beloved friend who is now doing business in the great waters. Let not tempest lay upon him. Give him all them that sail with him. Stand by him with Thine angel in the uttermost parts of the sea. Still know his path. Raise his piety while he beholds Thy wonders in the deep. Thou Who didst look forth on the storm of Gennesaret! care that he may not perish! Thou Who

didst help the thrice-shipwrecked Paul, bring him out of his distresses! Thou canst lead through the deep, as a horse in the wilderness, that they whom Thou lovest may not stumble. May our dear voyager be preserved! Be Thou his confidence far off upon the sea! Bring him in health and prosperity to his desired haven!

WINTER.

Thou changest the times and the seasons! Thou givest snow like wool: Thou scatterest the hoar-frost like ashes. Thou castest forth Thy ice like morsels: who can stand before Thy cold? By Thy breath frost is given, and the breadth of the waters is straitened. And while cold cometh out of the North, may we thank Thee for every relief against its rigour. We have raiment to put on. We have the fuel of fire. Our flight might from siege and war be aggravated by being in Winter. Our lot might be that of Thy most honoured servants, cold and nakedness. Thou dost bestow our garment, Thou dost kindle our hearth. Turn our heart to feel for them who are ill-defended from the inclemency, and whose dwelling feebly resists the storm.

May we practically say to the poor and the destitute, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled. Provide of Thy goodness for the poor! Save the children of the needy! As the snow cometh down from heaven, and watereth the earth, and causeth it to bring forth and bud,—so may the freezing blast, the waste-howling tempest, of calamity and grief, cleanse and fertilise Thy Husbandry. May all the fruit be to take away sin. Then stay Thy rough wind in the day of the east wind!

SPRING.

Thou renewest the face of the earth! The Winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come; and the voice of the dove is heard in the land. For this pleasant change we bless Thee! The small rain is on the tender herb. Our senses might have been closed against all this vernal beauty, and melody, and fragrance. Our hearts might have been too sad for any enjoyment of the exhilarating scene. We drink in the universal gladness. The little hills rejoice. The spices of the gardens flow out. So may the earth yield its spiritual increase;

may it breathe to Thee as the smell of a field which Thou hast blessed! As the earth bringeth forth its bud, and as the garden causeth the things which are sown in it to spring forth, so, O Lord God! cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations! May we catch the spirit which stirs and excites in all around us,—which attunes, rejoices, beautifies, all,—renew our strength, unfold our life, blossom and bud, filling the face of the world with fruit!

SUMMER.

Thou hast kindled lights in the firmament of Heaven to divide the day from the night; and to be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years! We thank Thee for these fair skies, these genial airs, these verdant fields! For the beauty and incense of flowers, for the rich foliage and bearing of trees, for the ripened grain of the summer threshing-floor! The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing. Sun of Righteousness arise upon the deadness of our world! Call forth the seeds of holy prayer long since sown into it. Awaken the

germs of truth and love. May we gather instruction and improvement now as the insect, with provident instinct, lays up during this season its store. May our soul be as a watered garden! May it grow as the lily, and its beauty be as the olive-tree, and its scent be as Lebanon! Let Our Beloved come into His garden, and eat His pleasant fruits! Never may it be the cry of any among us, The Summer is past, and we are not saved! May we improve the acceptable time! May our character be bright, our heart be glowing, our life be fruitful, as this Summertide!

AUTUMN.

Thou hast made every thing beautiful in its time! Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the Lord hath wrought this? Ours has been the feast of ingathering. The herb is matured which is for the service of man. The seed is in the barn. We lack not any thing. How unwearied is Thy beneficence! Thou hast heard the prayer of Jezreel, and not the less because the heavens have heard the earth, and the earth has heard the corn and the wine and the oil. Whatever the causes

which intermediately operate, Thou workest all in all. But now the day shortens and the glow of our landscape declines. The grass withereth and the flower fadeth. Surely the people is grass. We all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. Oh when the angel-reapers shall come forth, may our faith and holiness be found as the full corn in the ear! May we come to our grave as the shock of corn in its season! Let none of us be as stubble which the fire consumes, or as the chaff which the wind scatters. Give us the inheritance which fadeth not away, the fruit which is ever yielded by the tree of life, the sun which no more goes down, the new heavens and the new earth in which dwelleth righteousness!

ON GOING TO A FUNERAL.

Thou takest away, and none can hinder! The gates of death fly open at Thy command! We are summoned to carry forth our dead, and bury all that remains out of our sight. When we move in the melancholy train, when we as mourners go about the streets, when we follow the bier that holds the precious dust,—let us

not sorrow as those who have no hope; let not Thy consolations be small with us; let us believe that, notwithstanding the sad impression of our senses, death is abolished; let us see in the dismal accompaniments, nothing but the ensigns of a victory. May we realise the sure supports of the Gospel under this bereavement. May we stand on the margin of the grave, as anointed for our burial. May it be as though the tomb of Bethany was in sight. May we hear the lofty, tender, announcement: I am the Resurrection and the Life! May we weep, as Jesus wept. May it be as if the grave of Olivet were nigh at hand,—just forsaken of Him Who could not see corruption,—all around the Sepulchre, a garden,—and Angels lingering there!

ON RETURNING FROM A FUNERAL.

O Lord, to Whom belong the issues from death! We return to our tent from the house appointed for all living. We have beheld it opening for our friend who sleepeth. There we have laid him. The dust has returned to the earth as it was, and the spirit has returned to God who gave it. We dare not feel desolate in even this deserted dwelling. We would rejoice as well

as lament: We would think of the deliverance which has been obtained by this glorified one. He has ceased from sin! We would cry unto him, That his warfare is accomplished! We would thank Thee that to him the sun, and the light, and the moon, and stars are no more darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain. We adore Thee that he departed in the true faith. Soothe to us the parting. Let us not be alone, because Thou art with us. Be the guide of youth, and the staff of age to very feebleness. Supply the void. Heal the sore. And when we think of the grave from which we have now retired, and when we visit it to weep there, let us wipe away our tears in the recollection that its sojourner has not fallen asleep to perish,—that he is the dead in Christ, that he is sleeping in Jesus! Let us sweetly anticipate the period when broken ties shall be reunited, and inward friends shall receive each for ever! Let us look beyond our grave as well as this, when these days of mourning shall be ended!

PRAYER AT THE BEDSIDE OF THE DYING CHRISTIAN.

O THOU Who rememberest that we are dust! Who art moved with compassion toward us! Who knowest the sorrow of our hearts! We bend, around this couch, in supplication for him who now is upon it awaiting the solemn hour of dissolution. Thus far Thou hast brought him! Thou bringest him still! But it is to death, and to the house appointed for all living. None can pluck him out of Thy hands! We glorify Thee in him! For the exceeding strength and comfort of Thy rich grace, we adore Thee! Mercifully consider Thy servant. His day is come to die, but it is one of those for which his strength is accordingly ensured. Perfect Thy strength in his weakness. Blessed Saviour! In all our afflictions Thou wast afflicted! Thou knowst what it is to die! Chill after chill crept through Thy Flesh! Thy Heart did sink! Thy Soul did pass away! We dare to ask Thy sympathy! Thou Awful Sufferer, help our departing friend to sustain his infirmity! Thou Who mightst, justly dread Thy Death, — overcome his every remaining fear! Thou Who didst know the horror of a Forsaking God, — be in Thy clearest presence with his

spirit! Thou whose Eye fell on Her who is blessed among women, who didst entrust her to the disciple whom Thou lovedst,—enable him to leave with Thee friend and kindred! Thou Whose power hastened the moment of returning to Thy Father,—direct the moment of his end! Though long his Fore-runner, may he keep Thee in sight! May it be as if he read Thy name at every stage of pain and gloom,—as if he could not let fall his foot but in the prints of Thine! Smooth his descent into the valley of the shadow of death! Be with him! May the Shepherd's tokens comfort the panting sheep! How solemn is this place! It is the gate of heaven! It gradually opens! We seem to kneel in the presence of all that is sweet and solemn! Soon may our brother join that company! Soon may he hear that song! Let the Mansion, prepared for him, wide unfold! Let Angels come forth to carry him home! Let the Church of the First-born hail him! Lift up the everlasting Doors! Let an entrance be ministered to him abundantly! Let him behold Jesus standing at the Right Hand of God! Let him not suffer loss! Let not a hair of his head perish! Reprove Satan that the Accuser of the brethren may suggest no charge against his soul! Show to him that the Law threatens no condemnation, that being

dead in which he was held! Give to him the victory! May he depart to be with Christ! May he be a child of the Resurrection! In his flesh may he see God! Lord Jesus! receive his spirit! Lord Jesus! raise him up, as one who was given Thee, at the last day!

PRAYER FOR MISSIONS.

(It is the custom of many Churches to meet distinctly, and still more happily in Unions, on the First Monday of every Month, to intercede for the Conversion of the World to the Faith of Christ. Perhaps a good effect might be produced by devoting the Domestic Service of that Evening to the same purpose. The present Form is intended for such an object.)

THOU, O Lord! art Most High over all the earth! But Thou rulest not here as Thou dost in heaven: Dominion and fear are with Thee there, Thou makest peace in Thy high places; Thy numberless armies all obey Thee! Thou rulest in hell: The Devils believe and tremble! But on this world, Thou art set at nought. Thou art denied. Thou art disowned. Thou art braved. A strange god is with us. Other lords have dominion. Thy Name continually every day is blasphemed. They contemn Thee. They ask if there be knowledge in Thee. They say that they are delivered to do these abomi-

nations. They are inventors of evil things. Gross darkness covers the people. Every where is man the same! They are altogether become unprofitable. There is none that doeth good, no, not one. There is, O Thou who requirest it! a recompense to man's error that is meet! How are their sorrows multiplied who hasten after another god! They are destroyed from morning to evening: they perish for ever without any regarding it! Refuge faileth them! They sorrow without hope. Like grass they are cut down and wither. We sigh and cry for these abominations. Our spirit is stirred within us. Our souls shall weep in secret places. O our Lord! by this vision our sorrows are turned upon us, and we have retained no strength!

We approach Thee, in the Name of Thy Son, to Whom Thou wilt give the heathen for an inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. We plead with Thee by the faith of Him Who is a Propitiation, not for our sins only, but also for the sins of the whole world! We pray in the Spirit Who shall be poured out upon all flesh! We offer intercessions for all men. Make Thy way known on earth, Thy saving health among all nations. May we regard each man as our brother, and each of us become his keeper. May all of us think of every other man as our neighbour, and

love him as ourselves. Warm all our hearts until they burst into the glow of this pure philanthropy, until we are zealously affected in this good thing.

We entreat Thee that an enlarged spirit of courage and liberality may be imparted to the Churches of Thy saints. Never let Thy voice be uttered, Who will go for us? but there shall be heard a cordial response from thousands, Here are we, send us! Let it be like the noise of a host! Give the word, and great shall be the company of the preachers! O for the temper of lofty darings and costly sacrifices! Renew the ages when the heroes of faith and love obtained their good report! even obtained promises! At least may we believe the promises which honoured the power and majesty of their faith,—a faith which removed mountains,—a faith which could overcome the world! Let Zion stir up her strength! Let Thine elect cry day and night unto Thee! May Thy children without rebuke hold forth the word of life! May there be bands of men whose hearts Thou hast touched! May gain and substance be consecrated to Thee! May prayer be made for the Redeemer continually, and daily may He be praised! At His Name, let every knee bow, and every tongue confess! May the stretching out of Thy wings fill the breadth of Thy land, O Immanuel!

Give union to Thy people at home. Let the Scripture say in vain of us, that the spirit within us lusteth to envy. Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put His Spirit upon them! May we rejoice that Christ is preached! Be it enough for us that devils are cast out! Send, we pray Thee, by the hand of them whom Thou wilt send! May we do all things without murmurings and disputings. Upon all Missionary institutions, let Thy broadest benedictions rest! Is not the whole land before us? May their Directors have understanding of the times to know what they ought to do! May they devise liberal things! Let them receive not the Spirit of fear, but of love and of a sound mind! May they offer willingly! Open the eyes of these men! May they see that the battle is not theirs but God's! Let them behold the chariots of fire and the horses of fire! Let them go up and possess the land! Let them be strong and do exploits! Let them ride upon the high places of the earth! Let Ethiopia stretch out her hands! Let Seba and Shebah offer gifts! Let Philistia triumph because of Thee! Bring forth glorious issues! A short work do Thou make on the earth! Turn the battle to the gate! Get Thyself the Victory!

Consider, O Lord! the dark places of the

earth. Beneath what monstrous systems of superstition does it groan! What horrible things, what wicked abominations, are committed upon it. Not only is it a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret, —not only do we shudder when we think upon the worst of the heathen,—but how Thy sun looks down upon evils which shrink from no eye and ask for no extenuation! However excellent the brightness of the Image, and however terrible its form, may the Stone, cut out of the mountain without hands, smite it and break it to pieces. Let great Babylon come in remembrance before God. Sweep the earth of its impostures and idolatries. Judge among the heathen. Show Thyself unto the world. May the Beast be taken, and with him the False Prophet. Let them go into perdition. Bind Satan, shut him up, set a seal upon him, that he may deceive the nations no more!

Be very merciful to our beloved and honoured Missionaries. Perceiving the grace that was given unto them, we gave to them the right hands of fellowship that they should go unto the heathen. We blessed them out of the house of the Lord. Still would we pray for them, that their faith fail not, that they may be profitable for this ministry, not regarding their life, not afraid of faces, labouring much in the Lord.

May every good and holy thing be found in the sanctuary of their breast! Since they are precious in Thy sight, may they be honourable! Keep their feet and establish their goings! Save them from the contagion of surrounding example! May they be clean while they bear Thy vessels! May they purify themselves while they bear the Tabernacle of Witness, and the Ark of the Covenant, into the possession of the Gentiles! May they walk in white! Be Thou sanctified in them before the heathen! Grant to them a large success. Cast up a high way for them. Bring them into favour and tender love with them among whom they dwell. May the fear of God be on all the kingdoms of those countries. May Thy terror be on all their cities. Make room for these Thy servants that they may not be unfruitful in the lands of their benevolent exile. Let their blessings prevail, and be on the crown of the head of them who are separated from their brethren. Let them be encouraged by the panic of the diviners for their enchantments, of the makers of idols lest their craft be set at nought. May they see the hearts of their enemies failing within them. Let the stout-hearted be spoiled, and none of the men of might find their hands. Cause judgment to be heard from heaven!—the earth shall fear, and be still! Give Thy heralds skill in mas-

tering the dialects of the nations which they visit, clothe them with an ascendency over the popular mind, open access to them who are of reputation, and in mercy wound the heads over many countries. Spare the lives they have put, by this holy enterprise, in their hands. Confirm their health and strength. Inspire them with high resolve, a very abandonment to Thy cause. Let the earth open and bring forth salvation. May they draw near, and say, Will ye plead for Baal? Will ye save him? Above all, preserve them in integrity, in purity, in piety! May they be men of prayer,—giving Thee no rest, taking heaven by force,—their eyes failing because they wait so continually upon God! Cheer them by frequent gleams of their Crown, and grant them even now many a holy portion in the earth! Anoint them with the oil of gladness above their fellows!

With peculiar pity regard the Firstfruits of the Pagan world. We give Thee thanks that Thou hast made choice that by our mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the Gospel, and believe. Thou hast visited them to take out of them a people for Thy Name. Thou dost not despise the day of small things. The bruised reed Thou wilt not break, and the smoking flax Thou wilt not quench. Destroy not the little cluster, for surely a blessing is in it.

We glorify Thee for this mercy. The remnant is in the midst of many people as a dew from the Lord. Oh may this work extend and accumulate! Let the little cloud spread over every sky. We thank Thee for such earnests. It is as the dew of youth. The cloud rises to the voice of fervent effectual prayer. May the inhabitants of one city go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the Lord. And in the mean while, protect these recent converts. Seal to us this fruit. By whom shall Jacob arise? for he is small. Thou knowest their difficulties, their prejudices, how they are hated of all men for Thy sake. What traditions and impressions have they to cast out of their minds! Perfect that which is lacking in their faith. Gather, Thou Good Shepherd! these lambs with Thine arm, and carry them in Thy bosom. Didst Thou not notice when the solitary sought Thee, Behold he prayeth! Do not angels rejoice over one sinner that repenteth? In multiplying them, multiply them. Let the little one become a thousand and the small one a strong nation. Though now the fewest of any people, may the sealing soon be by twelves of thousands. Let us sympathise with them. Let us be comforted over them in all our affliction and distress by their faith. Preserve their simplicity. Keep them from the unclean thing. Let them no

more be as the heathen, as the families of the countries. It may be that bonds and deaths abide them. In nothing may they be terrified by their adversaries. May they hate life in comparison with apostacy. Let them in no extremity deny Thee! Keep them through Thine own Name and mighty Power! Establish, strengthen, settle, them! "Suffer them not at their last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from Thee!"

May the Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation to *every one* that believeth, be for the healing of the *nations*. Bind up the wounds of this bleeding world. Let the oppressor cease, and the spoiler be cast down. May Government only exist to bless, and Law to harmonise and bind man with man. May the righteous flourish. May the meek inherit the earth, and delight themselves in the abundance of peace!

How pleasant and cheering is the thought that over the breadth of our earth, millions have come together on this evening to unite in these supplications. What a unison of prayer has swelled upward to Thy Throne! Two or three cannot gather themselves together in the Saviour's name, without His assured presence! If two of us agree on earth as touching any thing that we shall ask, it shall be done for us of

our Father who is in heaven! Wilt Thou not hear, then, Thine assembled Churches? their mingled voice? their concerted cry? And we bless Thee that our labour is not in vain in the Lord. Thou hast gotten Thee a name! By the experiment of this ministration the heathen glorify Thee for our professed subjection to the Gospel of Christ. Hear them when they return our poor efforts on their behalf, in fervent petitions for us. They call us benefactors. Though we trust we feel how unworthy are our persons and services, yet hear their prayer for us, who long after us for Thine exceeding grace in us!

We have prayed thus that Thou wouldst make Thy way known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. From our domestic altar, as from a centre, we have implored the salvation of the world. We are blessed in thus seeking its blessing. We would lose ourselves in an interest so holily sublime. For us and for ours, hear the desire of the heart!

We pray Thee in the Name of Jesus for Whom all things were created, Who is expecting until His enemies be made his footstool. Soon, —as by a short work, as in a little moment,— may *our* ascription to the Deity be heard from every tongue, and a shout of adoring praise ascend to Him Who is able to keep His people

from falling, to Him Who bought them by His Blood, to Him Who forms them anew by His Influence,—the God of this whole earth shalt Thou be called!—Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, for ever! Amen.

"The grace of our Lord," &c.

ERRATA.

PAGE 12, Line 19 from the top, for *shouts* read *spirits*.
85, „ 6 from the top, for *fear* read *peace*.
215, „ 4 from the top, insert *and* before *again*.

LEEDS:
A. PICKARD, PRINTER, TOP OF BRIGGATE.

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